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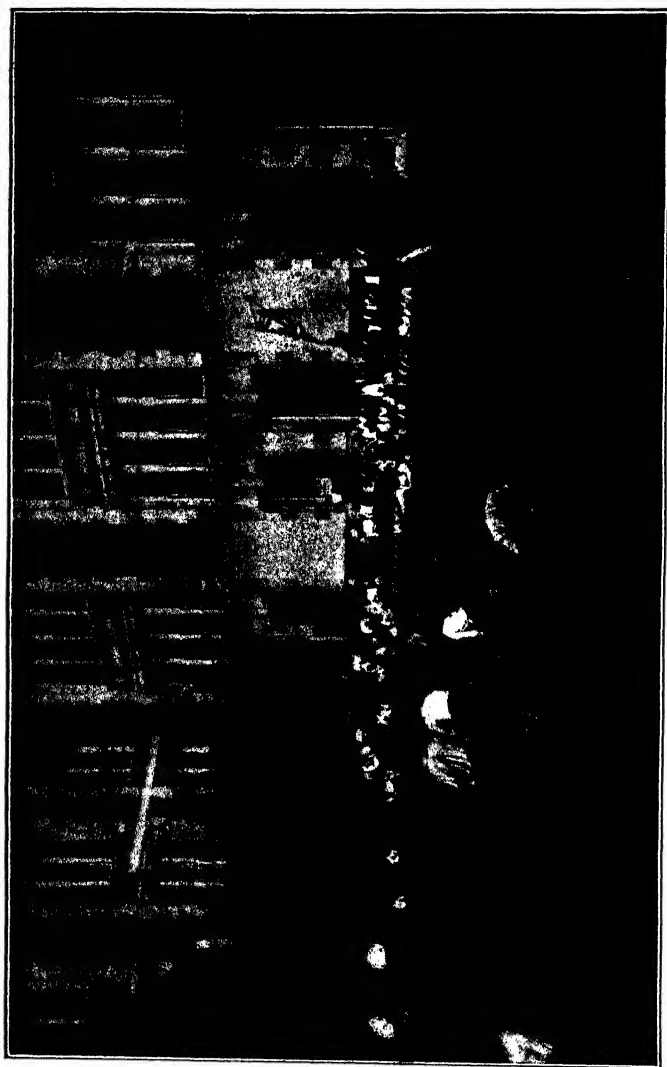
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INDOOR BASEBALL IN BOYS' PLAYGROUND, NEW YORK CITY

EDUCATION THROUGH PLAY

BY

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THE OPEN COUNTRY"; LECTURER ON RECREA-
TION AND OTHER SOCIAL TOPICS

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TO THE
TWENTY MILLION SCHOOL CHILDREN
IN THE UNITED STATES

INTRODUCTION

WHEN the author began this work, it was with the intention of treating the entire subject in a single volume, but as the book began to take shape, it became evident that the material in hand was too manifold to be treated satisfactorily in a book of the size that would be appreciated by the reading public.

Accordingly the subject of public recreation is scarcely touched upon here, as the author purposes to devote a volume to this subject a little later. The play of the little children in the home also has been omitted for the same reason. A volume on *The Practical Conduct of Play*, intended specifically for the play workers, has already been prepared and is to follow this at once.

The author has avoided the statistical method because play statistics can be had from the yearbook of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, and because in a field that is changing so rapidly as that of play, these can have value for a single year only.

The author's interest in the play movement began in 1898 with a study of the activity of children which was a part of his thesis work in psychology at Clark University. The same summer he took a position as an assistant director of a playground in New York City under Superintendent Seth T. Stewart. From this position he was promoted to be a director and then a general director in charge of psychological and sociological investigations. The summer of 1902 was spent

in investigating the playgrounds of Germany and England, and the intervening years have nearly all been given to some phase of the work. Every play system of any considerable size in this country has been visited, and the work has been organized in some fifteen different cities. Courses have been given in thirty or more different universities and normal schools.

This book was begun six years ago. During the intervening time, it has been held in solution and presented at many different universities and teachers' institutes. It is written with the conviction that the play of school children is a school problem, that no other city department can deal with it satisfactorily, and that thus far the school has not done so. It is believed, also, that this play problem of the school children is the chief play problem of our cities.

PREFACE

IN giving this book to the public, I wish to express my thanks to the *Review of Reviews* for the permission to republish the article on Our New National Games, to the Bureau of Education for the privilege of republishing a part of my bulletin on the Reorganized School Playground, and to the *Survey*, *The American City*, *Education*, and *The American Physical Education Review* for permission to republish certain paragraphs from articles of mine that have appeared in the pages of these magazines.

I am also indebted for the photographs here presented to the following people and my thanks is herewith tendered to them: Supt. Edward Stitt, Mr. W. Francis Hyde, Supt. William Wirt, Dr. Edward Rumley, Dr. Dudley Sargent, Mrs. Henry Parsons, Mr. R. E. Hawley, Mr. H. K. Staples, and the Board of Education of New York.

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EDUCATION THROUGH PLAY

CHAPTER I

WHAT IS PLAY ?

PICTURED in the earliest records, standing on the far horizon of history, the children appear, and even as to-day they are playing, and much the same games. All down the ages, whether on the hilltop or in the city streets, in the sunlit meadow or in the slime of the gutter, everywhere the child and play have seemed to go together. We go out to a baseball game and see the boy step up to bat. He dashes around the bases and returns to the home plate exhausted. What has he gained by it? Apparently he is no richer or wiser, no better clothed or fed. We can but marvel at this useless waste of effort.

If we ask ourselves what is play, and how it came to survive in the deadly struggle for existence, we are baffled. Play seems like a useless bit of poetry sadly strayed in the bitter prose of the actual, and we can but wonder in what sort of mail it has clad itself to keep its place in the battle field of the past; that it was not devoured by the dinosaur or some other relentless gorgon in that deadly struggle to which every useless characteristic of man or beast has succumbed. The only possible answer is that play must everywhere have served some great purpose, or it would not everywhere have survived. There are three theories that have at different times had a wide acceptance.

The Theory of Surplus Energy. — The first explanation of play to receive general following was the theory advanced almost simultaneously by Schiller and Spencer and which is known as the "Surplus Energy Theory." Spencer says that, if at any time the conditions of life become easier, so that an animal does not need to expend all its energy in getting a living, it uses this surplus in play, and that play is in general the expression of the energy left over after the necessities of life have been satisfied. The engine that is drawing its train, between stations uses its power on the load; but when it is standing still, it soon begins to blow off steam. Play is this surplus for the boy. He has to find an escape for it, or the boiler will blow up.

Excitability is the common characteristic of all nerve cells, and these are built up by the various stimuli which rain in from the periphery of the body and the various sense organs, until they reach a point of unstable equilibrium, when a discharge becomes necessary, like the action of an intermittent spring. The baby lies on his back and throws up his arms and kicks up his feet, and in these various ways expends the nervous energy which is being constantly developed in the motor areas of his brain. The bear and the elephant in the cage walk back and forth in endless round. They have nothing to gain by it. Their food is furnished to them, and all that they need to do is simply to eat and sleep. But the accumulating nervous energy demands expression and finds it in this way. The horse that has been kept in the stable during the winter often tries to run away when he is driven, or if turned loose in the pasture, he kicks up his heels and dashes wildly about and often jumps over the fence. College athletics in this country were largely promoted in the beginning to keep the students from tearing up

the sidewalk and carrying off the gates of the houses and doing other similar feats.

There can be no question but that surplus energy is a favorable condition to play. The animal or child that possesses it will play longer and harder, will feel a more insistent craving for activity than the animal or child without it; but no one to-day would accept the theory as an explanation. The child will play until he is exhausted and long after his surplus energy has been used up. The sick children in the hospitals still play upon their cots with whatever meager play material the hospital or their imaginations may provide. Surplus energy is a favorable condition of play, but it cannot explain the form of it. Why does not the boy go out and saw wood? Joseph Lee has said: "Yes, the boy plays on account of surplus energy in the same way that Raphael painted the Sistine Madonna because of surplus paint."

Professor Groos's Theory, Play as a Method of Education. — The next theory to attract general attention was the theory that was advanced by Professor Groos of Gorlitz, Germany. He held that play was an instinct that came into the world to serve the purpose of education. He says that the animal does not play because it is young, but it rather has a period of infancy in order that it may play, and in that play may be prepared for its life activities. In the lower forms of life the animal can do the first day of its existence anything that the adult animal can do, and among these lower forms there is no play. As we go up the biological scale, the conditions become more and more complex, and it becomes impossible for the animal to do without training the things that life requires; and whenever that occurs in the animal series, there play comes in as the method of education. He

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gives many examples of this. The kitten springs upon flying leaves and rolling balls, and in that play it gets just the training that enables the adult cat to catch mice. The puppy runs after his fellow and seizes him by the back of the neck; he wrestles with him, he fights with him, and in this play he gets the training which enables the adult dog to kill his game. In the same way the little girl plays with her doll. Who shall say that this play at keeping house and caring for her baby is not as good preparation for her future life as wife and mother as the lessons in the arithmetic or the geography? The Indian boy plays at tag and hide and seek, and so he learns to catch his game. He shoots and throws at a mark, and so he learns to kill it. His play is directly preparatory to the life that is before him.

G. Stanley Hall's Emphasis on the Recapitulation Theory.

— Professor Groos gave us the essential elements of the modern theory of play, but he apparently failed to realize the full significance of instinct or how any activity might become instinctive. Dr. Hall has supplemented the theory of Groos by saying that all games are remnants of the earlier activities of the race that have come down to us in a somewhat modified form. This is, in fact, only a statement of what "instinct" itself means, for all instincts are activities that have been practiced for unnumbered generations.

There is great difference of opinion as to the origin of man and civilization. But we know beyond question that as we go back into history, we go beyond the age of steel to an age of bronze, and back of an age of bronze to an age of stone, and back of this age of stone to an age of wooden and bone implements; that in the earliest records of man we find no steam engines or telephones, and the conditions of life were

very simple. Apparently man has been alive upon the earth for a million years; but history gives us a record of only five or six thousand of these. During nine hundred ninety-nine thousandths of the human day, man has lived as a savage and has won his living mostly from the hunt and the chase.

In this wild life of the savage there were certain activities that were almost universal. It was necessary to pursue and capture his game, to find it while it was in hiding, to strike it down with stick or stone or to shoot it with bow and arrow. Often he had to climb trees, to vault over obstacles, or to leap across brooks. At other times he himself was the hunted, and he had to flee or to hide from the pursuer or to defend himself with such means as lay at hand. These were universal activities of savage man throughout the long days of unrecorded history, and it is these same activities that survive in the play of the child.

Dr. Holmes has said: "Man is an omnibus in whom all of his ancestors ride." Back of our inheritance from our fathers and mothers is our inheritance from our Anglo-Saxon forefathers, and back of this our inheritance from the Aryan race, and back of this an inheritance which may be called human, and perhaps we may find traces of instincts and impulses in the child which are older than humanity itself.

Why is Play Pleasant? — There is no explanation of the pleasure of play on the basis of modern conditions. Why does a boy like to throw or bat or catch a ball? Why does he enjoy hide and seek and other games of a similar type? They mean nothing directly in modern life. But if we go back in the past, we find similar activities have a profound significance. Savage man was often on the verge of starvation.

Always the struggle between him and the savage beasts and savage men by whom he was surrounded was bitter and very fierce. To him the pursuit of game meant the satisfaction of hunger. It meant survival in the struggle for existence, and the idea of rapid pursuit became associated back in those pristine days with success in the struggle of life. Or perhaps the scale was reversed and he himself was the pursued, when rapid flight or skillful hiding away meant that he saved his life from the hand or claw of the pursuer, and that he left behind a progeny. These were the most pleasurable emotions, representing the highest values that life anywhere knows, and these values have survived in the joy of play, although the conditions have utterly changed and the causes from which the joy arose have ceased to be.

Dr. Hall says: "The pleasure is always in direct proportion to the directness and force of the current of heredity." The nearer we reproduce the original conditions, the more intense is the pleasure. Take an example. It is more pleasant to throw at a mark than it is merely to throw aimlessly; but it is far more pleasant to throw at a living mark, and especially one that is moving, than to throw at a dead one. Witness the various devices that are used at county fairs. One of the commonest of these is a ducky who sticks his head through a screen as a target for a baseball. I always find it difficult myself to keep my hands off the baseball at such times, although I have no desire to injure the person in question. A few years ago I was walking along a country road, when a bluebird flew up and lit on a fence post. Thoughtlessly I picked up a stone from the wayside, threw, and killed the bird. Immediately I felt an intense joy springing up within me. The savage who occupies the lower story of our earthly

tabernacle looked out of the window and shouted. He had secured a prize, he had proved his skill. But almost immediately, submerging the primitive savage, appeared the conscience of the civilized man and a deep regret for what I had done. The incident was sufficient to prove to me the practical reliability of the theory and to show the savage foundation on which our Twentieth Century civilization is built for every man.

Besides the hunt and the chase, there were also in earliest times the crafts of the savage woman and the minor activities of the camp, the building of the wigwam, the setting of snares, the tanning of skins, the making of clothing, and the pottery and weaving of the women. These activities of savage man and woman form the constructive play of children at the present time. Nearly every child loves to hunt and fish, to build a camp fire and sit about it in the woods, to make snares and bows and arrows and pottery. Take almost any activity that primitive man or woman has ever pursued anywhere for a long time and one may be fairly sure that children also will love to do it.

The activities that are represented in the play of children were all carried on under an environment of nature in which primitive man lived. The nervous system and all the senses were developed under such conditions, and they respond to them as they do to nothing else. For rest and play we fall back upon earlier activities, because these have become instinctive and are done with least effort, and we seek also the environment in which these activities were developed. The noise of factories and street cars and locomotives are wearying to the spirit, but the sound of brooks and rustling leaves and ocean's waves and the songs of birds are restful and soothing.

Education Through Play

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The sight of cities with their traffic and noise and smoke is sometimes stimulating; but is never restful. But the view of the ocean or the plains from the mountain tops, or the distant sunrise or sunset, or even a bed of flowers, where one can fall back from conscious activity upon pure sensation, and the colors of nature herself, are balm to the wearied mind.

The Transmission of Games. — A few years ago when the Playground Association came before Congress to ask for an appropriation for the supervision of play for the city of Washington, Representative Gaines arose and said: "Teach the children to play? You might as well talk about teaching the little lambs to skip and gambol on the hillsides." It does seem that if play were instinctive, it should not be necessary to teach children to play. It is not necessary to teach children to play; but the people who speak in that way are confusing play and games. Games are a highly organized form of play, and the individual child does not inherit the game of baseball any more than he inherits the multiplication table. It took the human race a million years or so to invent the game, and no boy will play this or any other game unless he is taught.

There have been two main methods whereby games have been passed on in the history of the world. One of these has been the teaching of the older children. Most of us probably cannot remember to-day the games that we played at five or six; we have forgotten the rhymes we sang; we have forgotten how we counted out and counted in, how we determined who was to be "it," and everything else in regard to these games; and yet many of them have come down for a thousand years, all the time forgotten by the adult population, transmitted by the older children to the younger children. This transmission, however, requires that there shall be a

common social inheritance in the community such as is not found in an American city which is made up of the mixed peoples of Europe.

A second method has been by the teaching of the mothers. When Froebel invented the kindergarten, he did not think we should have an entirely new set of teachers, but that the mothers should play these games with the little children. But the mothers everywhere are ceasing to do it.

When we have opened playgrounds in the great cities, the children have often come in and stood around the edges or sat down in the corners. When we have asked them why they did not play, they have said they did not know what to play; and observation has often shown that they knew only three or four games and these often were of very little value. Probably play has reached the lowest ebb that it has ever reached in the history of the world in this country in the last fifty years. Nearly all of the conditions have been unfavorable. But the greatest sinner against the spirit of play has been the school itself. Among all primitive peoples the child has no considerable occupation except play, and it is only within a hundred years or so that study has been the work of most children. We now require the child to go to school for five or six hours a day and often give him tasks to complete at home after his school hours are over. We have taken the time that in all previous ages was devoted to play and have devoted it to study. We have taken the energy out of which play developed and turned it into other channels, and in our great cities, we have built up the vacant places on which the children might play, until we have almost crowded it out of their lives.

Age Periods in Play. — There have been many studies of children that have divided childhood into very narrow periods

of time, but there is only one universally accepted division, and that is the division which comes at puberty and marks the beginning of manhood and womanhood. There is a second division, however, which is pretty generally acknowledged, which comes at about the period of six, when the child enters school. These two crises divide childhood into three periods which are convenient in the study of play.

The first period is the imitative stage of life. Long before science discovered that the child was actually a little monkey, people had called him one from his nearly universal imitation of everything he saw and heard. All the occupations of his seniors, all the things that are going on around him, these are lived over again on the little stage on which the child himself is the chief actor. Froebel took these common activities and gave them an accompaniment of song in the creation of the kindergarten, and in so doing he built upon the universal nature and tendency of childhood. In this first stage, before the child enters school, the elements of play themselves are interesting. The child loves to run and jump and climb and do the simplest things, which at this time have scarcely been organized into games.

The second period, from about six to puberty, corresponds in general to the period of the elementary school. It is the stage which Joseph Lee has called the "Big Injun" stage, the time when the boy and the girl love individual competition, of which tag might be taken as a universal example. In this period the child is too individualistic to organize his own games, and here is the great play problem. The little children are oftentimes content to play by themselves in games that require little or no leadership, and the children after puberty become more capable of organizing them-

selves; but leadership is the great need of the "Big Injun" period.

The third period, which comes at about thirteen or fourteen, usually, represents in its first years a stage of development corresponding to the tribal life. It is the beginning of the team game, of the development of loyalty, and of those intenser forms of coöperation which come in baseball, football, and the like. These games may be played at an earlier period, but seldom then with a team spirit. Boys often spontaneously organize themselves into gangs and clubs at this time, and everything shows that there is a development of a new social spirit that comes in with the ripening functions of sex.

When the matter of sex differences between boys and girls is discussed, there is nearly always some one who says: "But the boy and the girl have two parents, a father and a mother, and the inheritance of the girl is exactly the same as the inheritance of the boy." Unfortunately this argument proves too much, for it would require the girl to be exactly the same as the boy in body as well as in mind.

Nearly all of our games have been derived from the activities of savage man. It is to be anticipated, therefore, that they will be somewhat less interesting to girls than to boys. Girls are probably never as much interested in competitions as boys are. They do not take the same interest in running fast and jumping far. They always acquire the coördinations involved with greater labor and are less proficient in the end. A girl can learn to throw like a baseball pitcher, but she must practice more than her brother for the same skill. She can learn to bat like a professional baseball player, but always with much practice. She may become strong, but the

same practice will not produce the same strength for her as for her brother. We have no women Samsons, despite the fact that we have many schools for the physical training of women. The boys will play in the city streets in the midst of the traffic, if there is no better place, but conditions must be favorable to secure much vigorous play from girls.

Play and Recreation. — There is a very common misunderstanding of the play of children among adults which arises from their confusing it with recreation. Recreation is relief from toil. It is intended for the rest and rebuilding of wearied muscles and nerves and spirit. It may take any form, but it is always lacking in seriousness and usually has value only in re-creating the mind and body for the more serious work of life. The play of the child does not correspond to the recreation of the adult, but to the work of the adult. Play is the most serious activity in which the child engages.

The Play Spirit. — There is no real difference between work and play except in the spirit in which it is done. The play of the children was the work of our ancestors. It has been said that play is an activity that we carry on for its own sake without any ulterior aim. Play is its own reward. But the same is almost equally true of any good work. The lawyer, the doctor, the writer, the clergyman, who are suited to their callings, find no less pleasure in the work they do than they did as boys in baseball or fishing. A little girl plays with her doll, and the mother cares for the baby. If the doll can speak and say "mama," the little girl thinks it is a wonderful doll; but the baby laughs and cries and every day takes on new abilities. It has generally been said that the mother is working when she is caring for her child. But the baby is the most successful piece of play apparatus that ever came

from the hand of the Almighty. Go down on the East Side to Tompkins Square or any other of those crowded parks on a summer's afternoon. On nearly every bench is a woman, and in the arms of nearly every woman a baby. As you watch them for a time you come to see that the baby is bringing nearly all the joy and play that enters the lives of these women, and you realize that one reason for the large families of the East Side is the need of recreation for the mothers themselves. The little boy draws on the sidewalk, and Raphael paints a Sistine Madonna; and Raphael finds no less joy in his work than does the boy in his play. The little boy builds his playhouse in the yard, and Michael Angelo builds St. Peter's, and Angelo is playing no less than the boy. It has been said: "The value of any piece of work is the amount of play there is in it," and "all good work is done in the spirit of play." If a man were a savings bank, he might be rewarded in money for the work he does; but so far as he is a spiritual being, he can be paid only in spiritual values, and no amount of money can reward him for a life that is not worth living or for work that is not worth doing. Most of the work of the world might as well be play as work, — it depends entirely on the spirit in which it is done. We all remember the story of Tom Sawyer and how he had the fence to paint. He told the boys there was nothing quite so delightful as painting a fence, and they brought him their tops and their jews'-harps and their jack-knives for the privilege of having a share in the painting. If, on the other hand, he had persuaded them there was nothing quite so disagreeable as painting a fence, he would have had to pay them as much to get them to do it as they were willing to pay him for the privilege. Perhaps the greatest service that play has to render life is to give it the play spirit

in which to do its work., The tragedy of child labor is that too often it kills the spirit of play itself.

Is Work a Blessing or a Curse? — From the original playground of the race, which was the Garden of Eden, man moves forward to the playground to come, where —

“No one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame;
But each for the joy of the working, and each, in a separate star,
Shall draw the thing as he sees it for the God of things as they are!”

Heaven is the place where we drop our vocation and take up our avocation, where each shall have the freedom to follow the leading of his own spirit and do the thing that his soul loves to do.) The Bible says that for the sin of our first parents they were driven from the Garden, and the curse that was laid upon them was that “in the sweat of their brow they should eat bread.” Ofttimes it is said that work is our greatest blessing, and ofttimes again it is our greatest curse; both of these statements are true. Work that has in it no play has always been a curse. Go to Manchester or Leeds, where for three generations men have worked in soul-consuming factories, and find that they have degenerated three inches in stature; that moral conditions there are the worst in England; that in every way men have shrunk to lower levels. The greatest tragedy of modern life, perhaps, is that so many men are employed in factories where from the beginning of the year to the end of the year they repeat a single monotonous motion in which there is no interest. Work of this kind is deadly to all that is best in man, and it seems as though the division of labor and the enormous development of machines, which has furnished an abundance of the material things of life, have too often killed the spirit which should make life itself worth

while. Perhaps the greatest problem that lies before the play movement to-day is to introduce play elements into modern industry that there may be left still the joy of accomplishment for the worker.

We must all feel, however, that the present stage of the factory which employs enormous numbers of unskilled men is only a stage in the process of machine development, which is to go on until all of these unskilled workers are replaced by more complicated machines, which will in turn be tended by skilled mechanics. Edison says the time is coming when we shall put the wool into one end of the machine and the ready-made garment with the buttons all sewed on will come out at the other end. The Efficiency Movement also, which is furnishing an incentive to the right kind of effort, is doing much to add interest to the work of the factories.

Play as a Preparation for Work. — Whenever a play movement is promoted for the first time in any small town or city, there are always a number who say that they do not believe in play for children and that the children ought to work instead. However, there is no work for the boys in the modern city, as we all know, and only a very little for the girls; and the question of whether work or play is the better for children is not a practical question, for the real question is always not whether the children shall work or whether they shall play, but whether they shall be idle or whether they shall play. If we choose to examine into the relative value of work and play as a preparation for life, I think we shall find that work during the first years has not, in the main, so much of profit to offer. Certainly we know that child labor stultifies the child and that it checks growth, dwarfs the intellect, and shortens the working years. The farmer who mows a field or

plows a furrow, or the carpenter who builds a house, has a motive for his work, because he does these things to support his family or to buy an automobile or to secure some reward. But the child is normally supported in the home and gets the things that he requires directly. He has no normal motive for work as the adult has, and work does not appeal to him or stimulate the deeper layers of energy, as play may do.

It has been said that if the children only do the pleasant things which are involved in play, they will not wish to do the unpleasant things in work. This is doubtless true. If children do only the pleasant things in play, they will probably want to do only the pleasant things in work. But no one can become an expert in such a game as baseball without persistent and oftentimes disagreeable practice. Play furnishes an adequate motive for this practice.

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CHAPTER II

PLAY AS PHYSICAL TRAINING

WHEN playgrounds first began to be discussed, the thought in the minds of most people was that the purpose was to keep the children off the streets. But as time has gone on, the ideals have become more and more definite. We now see that, while the playgrounds keep the children off the streets to a considerable extent, this is no more the purpose of the playgrounds than it is of the public schools, which do the same thing; but is rather an incidental advantage, or by-product of organized play. The aims of the playground are, to-day, nearly as definite as the aims of the public school. I believe they are no whit less important. The first of these that we shall consider is physical development. But we must not think, on that account, that play is a physical activity. Play is the life and spirit of childhood, and exercise is only incidental to it. It is no more physical than it is emotional or mental or social.

There seems to be a common feeling that physical training in America is in an unsatisfactory state at present. The first years of life, when motor coördinations are being acquired, and when the development of physical robustness is the paramount interest of nature, it is almost entirely neglected. The public playgrounds, which are reaching perhaps five or ten per cent, are offering the first public opportunity that has been given to the children of this period. Physical training

has been practically confined to the high school and college period of life. It is not continued by the student, as a rule, after his schooldays are over.

All the signs seem to indicate that this system will be less adequate to meet the needs of the future. Every year sees a reduction of the hours of labor in one or more states, sees various limitations put on the work of women, sees the age raised at which children may go to work in several states. The number of hours that are thus added to leisure each year make an enormous total. Every freeman has a right to leisure, because the man who has none is little better than a slave. Yet working people in the past have had almost no vacations nor free time except the leisure of unemployment, which is too much complicated with the thoughts of hungry wives and children to be enjoyable. The right to leisure is one of the basal principles in the plea for social justice that is now being generally preached and which has been embodied more or less in the platforms of the three great political parties in the recent campaign.

The Physical Period of Life. — The child is born a little animal. His first interests and achievements are almost entirely physical. Never afterward is he estimated among his peers so largely by his prowess as he is in the years up to twelve or thirteen, and this, of course, means that never at any other time is physical prowess so much desired or so interesting. The little child spends nearly all of the energy that he develops in motor activity. Witness the ceaseless running back and forth of the three-year-old or the child of five. The motor areas of the brain are the first areas to be developed, the motor fibers are the first fibers to be medulated. Everything indicates that nature intended that the little

child should be active. In my own studies of the activity of children at Clark University, using American pedometers, I found that where the daily activity of the school children was only eight and five sixths miles, the activity of the children from three to six years of age was nine and two fifths miles, showing about a half a mile greater activity on the part of the little children. Again, while the average record of the school children was only eight and five sixths miles, their record on Saturday was ten and a half miles, showing again how much the school was repressing their normal activity. The little children who did not like to go to school usually gave as the reason, that they "had to sit still." Repeated tests showed that the little children less than six years old could not sit entirely still for more than thirty seconds; that when they were required to sit still for a considerable time, they became restless and irritable. This restlessness is only the outward expression of the high nervous pressure that comes from motor energy unused. The association fibers in the child's brain are poorly developed. He has to use the energy of each motor area largely in its own particular muscles, a condition which can only mean that to avoid restlessness the small child must use all his muscles frequently. It is needless to say that this everywhere agrees with common experience. The chief time for physical training is during the first years of life. Almost the only method during this period is play. The children are too young to work and too young for formal gymnastics.

Any satisfactory system of physical training must be one that reaches every child during the physical or first period of life, and it must furnish a form of exercise that will be continued after childhood is over, so as to meet the need of exer-

cise and recreation for later years as well. There are three forms that may be considered. They are gymnastics, work, and play. Let us see how well each of these meets the fundamental needs of physical training.

Gymnastics and Physical Development. — School gymnasiums have multiplied rapidly the country over, but they probably still reach less than five per cent of the children. We have some calisthenics, but these are usually performed in such a listless manner that they are scarcely to be classed as physical exercise. All systems of gymnastics have been developed for the purpose of military training. Their purpose is to create muscular strength.

Gymnastics, thus far, have not met the physical needs of Americans and they probably never will. Gymnastics seem to be play to the German people, but they have never been play to us. I do not suppose that one per cent of us keeps up our gymnastics after our high school or college days are over. They are necessarily impractical here, because of the absence of public gymnasiums and gymnastic associations. This is a lack that may be remedied; but while we continue to work as hard as we do at present, the exercise we take must be both exercise and recreation.

Gymnastics are an unnatural form of exercise. Take the pulley weights, as an example. The motions involved have never been required in human history. They are uninteresting and soon become a bore. They accomplish nothing. They are physical exercise, but man has never before had physical exercise. He has sought to accomplish certain results, and both physical and mental exercise have been incidental to accomplishment. Gymnastics are mostly indoors, where the air is not the best, and so far as they are done at word of

command, the strain of voluntary attention is nearly or quite as great as that of the classroom. Many of the muscular movements involved are of the accessory kind.

Work and Physical Development. — When I was a boy, I got most of the physical strength that I have to-day on the woodpile. But we have no woodpile in the modern city. In preceding ages children, before their growth was completed, have always helped in many of the activities of their parents. To-day the factory system and our doctrine and laws concerning child labor prohibit the work of children. But even so far as they participate in the occupations that are available and in child labor, so called, these do not mean physical development. A boy will never become an athlete from standing at a loom in a cotton factory or from shucking oysters, or delivering packages, or tying bundles, or picking berries. On the farm, too, there has come an almost complete change. The wheat is cut and bound with the binder; the hay is cut with the mower, raked and loaded with the loader, and unloaded with the hay fork. Nearly all the work is done by horses and a machine which the boy rides. There has not been so great a change in the work of the home, but a girl cannot develop a perfect physique through washing dishes, making beds, and sweeping. These activities are about the worst exercise that there is in the whole calendar, are indoors, and tend to fill the lungs with dust. Schmidt says that the death rate from tuberculosis is twenty-five per cent higher among the girls in the public schools of Germany than it is among the boys. This is just what we should expect. The work of the girls in the home, while it is less in amount, is of much the same kind as it always was, but the girls for the last fifty years have been getting less and less of outdoor exercise,

and it is this that has always been the main source of their strength.

While there is little physical development to be found in the tasks that are available for city children, up to about fourteen, almost none of them are doing anything. Go where you will about our cities and you will find that, outside of a few boys who are carrying papers or shining shoes, the boys are loafing, not working.

Development through Play. — The only means there is left whereby a child may become strong, is through his play. But if he is to get his physical development in this way, he must have vigorous play ; he cannot do it at ping-pong and marbles. The children who are playing tag and similar games on the street, and roller skating, will develop their legs, and through them their hearts and lungs to a considerable extent, but there is little in street play, except fighting, to develop the muscles of the arms and shoulders and back and chest.

At the time I took charge of the playgrounds of Washington, I introduced the test of the Public School Athletic League of New York. Not a boy was able to pass the test at the beginning ; but at the end of four summers of organized play five hundred boys passed the three tests and more than two thousand boys were able to pass one or two of them. We found the records in all our field events went up every year. These children had been playing all their lives before, but, left to themselves, they were as likely to spin tops as to play baseball, and it took a long time at tops for them to become strong. If play is to develop children, there must be spaces large enough to run in, organization to make the play interesting, and games that will use the trunk and arms as well as the legs.

Training should give the person such strength as will enable him to do with ease the physical tasks required of him. To one who has not thought much on the subject, this is likely to appear as the paramount aim in physical training, and in a sense it is. Every person should have the strength to do with ease his daily work, but our daily work is requiring of us less and less of physical strength.

In the days of Greece and Rome, when men fought with broadsword and spear and nearly every man was a soldier, survival depended on physical prowess, as it did, no less, in the savage ages that preceded and in the days of chivalry that followed. With the coming of the great industrial development physical strength was needed for industrial efficiency. But in the age of steam and electricity, when the work of the world is rapidly slipping through man's fingers into the maw of machines, strength is becoming less and less important. Old processes of manufacture are becoming more complicated, eliminating the work of men who had relayed the product in its course, and new inventions are coming in constantly to take over old manual arts. The time is surely coming, and coming soon, when, in the doing of nearly all physical tasks, man's work will consist almost entirely in the direction of machines. It costs ten to a hundred times as much to remove a yard of earth with a hand shovel as it does with a steam shovel.

There, are, however, other considerations which make strength desirable. We may not need it in our daily tasks, but there may be an accident, a fire, or a runaway; a drunken person or a bully may assault us. We mean to keep the peace, but we like to feel that we are prepared, that we have built the battlements, even if we are not going to war, that we have

the strength to protect a woman or a child if need be. It gives us a sense of security and dignity which we cannot afford to forego and which the weakling cannot well possess. However, the professional man, and more and more all men, need physical strength and endurance only in their leisure time and in activities that may be roughly classified as play. It is in tennis and golf and mountain climbing and swimming and walking that the modern professional man, and we are all becoming professional men, needs his physical strength. As the future man is to use his strength thus, it seems reasonable that he should acquire the type of strength that will enable him to carry on these activities without undue fatigue. This would seem to mean that it should be strength developed through play.

Physical Development for Women. — While the reasons for men's acquiring physical strength have largely disappeared, the reasons for women's seeking a good physical development are stronger now than they ever were before. The work of the men has fallen more and more to machines, but this has not thus far been the case with the work of the home. It is not strenuous physical exercise, but it is not much different from what it was fifty years ago; and more and more women are going from the home to compete with men in outside employment. This may not be heavy work, but it is almost always hard upon the nervous system. Health and a good physique are probably a greater asset to a woman in the matrimonial market than a college education or a small fortune. A very large number of married women are not able to be companions to their husbands, because they have not the physical strength to play tennis or golf, or climb mountains or swim or go on walks. They become nervous

and irritable toward the end of the day from nervous and physical exhaustion.

But it is as a prospective mother that women are in most need of physical training and development. There is an increasing sterility or one-child fertility among American women. Childbirth is apparently becoming more difficult and more feared. Our birth rate among American born, certainly among our college graduates, is declining. It may be that the mother who has developed herself well through physical exercise will conceive a child no better formed than one who has not thus developed herself. But there is every reason to suppose that a robust mother will bear more and better nourished babies with less effort than an underdeveloped woman will, and that she will be better able to furnish to these children an abundant supply of healthy nourishment. This we have come to see is the prime requirement in the prevention of infant mortality. The greatest problem of physical training of the present is undoubtedly the training of girls.

In contrast to this need, women and girls are receiving only a small fraction of the physical training that men and boys are getting. From the first, the girl is handicapped by her clothes. Even when she is little, she is dressed more elaborately than the boy, often in white, and told that she must keep her clothes clean, instruction which is a practical prohibition against play. Her clothes are always unsuitable, for with the white underwear in which she is usually attired, she cannot climb on a fence or into a tree. She cannot run where she may fall down, she cannot even sit on the doorstep and be modest. When puberty comes, and she puts on her long dress, she is still more impeded, and if she is the happy

possessor of a hobble shirt, and high heels she might almost as well be put up in a museum, so far as physical achievements are concerned. The result is that the girl comes up to the age of puberty with practically the same weight and only three quarters of the lung capacity of the boy of the same age. Her blood is not in as good condition. At puberty the girl should have a larger lung capacity than the boy, because the next few years are going to be years of physical strain, when her activity will be restricted both by her long dress and her monthly periods.

Endurance. — Strength signifies the ability to make a powerful contraction of a muscle; endurance, the ability to continue this contraction, perhaps in a much lower degree for a long time. The strength of a muscular movement depends largely on the strength of the nervous impulse, as is shown in the great increase of strength in times of excitement and delirium. I may raise a pin or a hundred pounds on my hand, but the impulse that was sufficient to raise the pin would not have stirred the hundred pounds. Strength also consists largely in the number of strands in the muscle itself and their condition. The endurance of a muscle depends on three factors: the condition of the muscle fibers, the elimination of the waste products of exercise, and the constant nervous discharge. It is found in many laboratory experiments that if the waste products can be washed out of a fatigued muscle, the muscle will continue to contract as before. It is also found that the muscle that can no more be contracted voluntarily responds almost as before to the electrical stimulus. These two sets of experiments seem to show that muscular exhaustion comes largely from the clogging of the system with the waste products of exercise and from the exhaustion of

the motor nerve center, which controls the movement. A simple corollary from these facts is that endurance is dependent on the rapid elimination of waste and on the strength of the cortical center that controls the movement.

Modern life does not require great physical strength, but it does not seem to require much less endurance than formerly. We do not need to lift great weights or to wield heavy implements, but we do need to keep busy and to be quick at our work. The physical exhaustion that comes at the end of the day does not come from a lack of strength, but from a lack of endurance. It is not because we have had to make any great exertion at any time, but because many movements have had to be made again and again all day. All endurance tests, so far as I know, indicate that the endurance of a muscle is not in direct relation to its strength, if we can properly speak of the strength of a muscle, as the strength of contraction is always the resultant of the two factors of nervous impulse and muscular response. There are many indications that it bears a close relation to the strength of its cortical center and the relation of that center to the other areas of the brain, or, in psychical terms, on interest. An old hunter says: "I can walk twenty-five miles with a gun on my back; I can't walk five without one." His speech is good psychology and good physiology. We all know that we can keep on at an interesting task almost endlessly, where drudgery exhausts us at once. A boy can spend three times the energy in play without being weary that it would be possible for him to spend on work. On the physiological side this means that endurance is dependent on the supply of nervous energy; on the psychological side, on interest. An activity that keeps the brain aroused apparently continues to generate the nervous energy

that is needed for the continued contraction of the muscle. Mechanically, it probably means that interest arouses the brain as a whole, so that all the motor centers are connected and the muscle need not use the strength of its own center alone, but may use the strength of all the other connected centers as well. In other words, any interesting physical activity tends to unify the brain. Whatever the mechanism may be, there is no question about the connection between interest and endurance, and consequently the conclusion is forced upon us that if we want to train endurance, the exercises involved must be made as interesting as possible. This has two very important results in practice. Games will be more valuable than gymnastics in giving endurance in proportion as they are more interesting, and we shall be able to work long hours in our chosen field in pretty direct proportion as we find this work to be play. Nervousness, which is a more or less constant leakage and unregulated discharge of nervous energies, will tend constantly to decrease endurance.

Beauty of Form and Feature. — However, the development of physical strength and even endurance can scarcely be a fundamental problem of physical training at the present time. There were two ideals that lay behind the Greek system: they were fitness for service in the army and beauty of form. The Greeks sought to develop a perfect race, and to this end they exposed the defective children to die. As one notices the types on the streets and in the cars of a modern city he is impressed that many of them would not show up well beside the Apollos and Venuses of the Greeks. We have kept the weaklings and defectives alive through our new sciences of child care, and are thus furnishing to the trainer much poorer material than the Greek had to deal with. If, out of

this imperfect material, we are to make a Greek statue, the necessity for training is more imperative for us than it was for them. Physical perfection is a vital aim because of the sense of worthiness and self-respect that it gives to the possessor. It might appear that the problem of beauty of form is largely a question of the correcting of physical defects, and this is certainly so for a large number of individuals. But if these children had had a proper amount of physical exercise from the earliest years, many of these defects would not exist. For round and stooped shoulders and flat chests, volley ball is as good an exercise as can be prescribed. Exercise is undoubtedly a powerful stimulus to growth, as the studies at Annapolis and other places have shown. It is said that the Patagonians have lost six inches in stature since they have begun to ride horses. Undoubtedly running has some tendency to lengthen the legs, though this may be to a negligible amount. Exercise cannot make small people of small stock, tall; or tall people, short. It can, however, to a considerable degree, reduce the flesh of the obese and build up the lean. It can straighten the figure and give it a good carriage. It can fill out the chest. It can give animation, grace, and sprightliness to the walk. It can most easily of all give color to the cheek, fire to the eye, and gloss to the hair, provided these exercises are taken in the open air, and lead to the establishment of vigorous health. It will be seen that most of the elements which constitute the effective side of beauty are in the gift of vigorous play in the open air. I am inclined to think that they are not largely within the gift of physical exercises in the gymnasium.

Nervous Stability. — It is said of us abroad that we have only two saints in this country, and that the only saint of the

Education Through Play

American women is Saint Martha, and the only saint of the American men is Saint Vitus, and that we all have Americanitis of the worst kind. Certainly we are living fast and getting nervous at an alarming rate. It is said that at the rate insanity is increasing, we shall all be in insane asylums within three hundred years. There have been no fourth and usually no third generation for city dwellers. Our strong men have mostly come from the country. The city youth is generally in advance of the country youth. He has read a great deal more, he has seen a great deal more. He knows many more people, and, as a rule, people who are better worth knowing; he has had a far larger and more varied experience, but in some way, as the years go by, he is likely to find the farm boy, who was once far in the rear, is forging to the fore. He does not break down. He stands long hours, and, when the crisis comes, "the tide that leads on to fortune," he is ready.

There are three well-known sources of nervousness. The first of these is the city itself: its noises; its clanging gongs; its rushing autos and cars; the dangers of its crossings; its time schedules minutely divided, which must be kept; the worry of too many and often conflicting duties. Worry means a constant dissipation of energy into unproductive channels. It tends to accumulate from day to day, and, as the person becomes more worried and worn, he becomes sensitive and is annoyed by a thousand things of which he was scarcely conscious before. The only cure for this condition is to throw off the care and worries of every day in some activity that involves no strain and in which the whole soul is absorbed. Of course the simplest and easiest method is play.

A second source of nervousness is the indoor air. It is

often overheated and nearly always undermoistened. It is the custom of nerve specialists everywhere to get their patients out into the open air as much as possible. The open air has a tonic effect on the nervous system. Those who live out of doors seldom have nervous troubles.

The physiologists tell us that we have two sets of muscles. One of these is known as fundamental. They are the large muscles of the arms, legs, and trunk. These are the first to develop in the race and in the individual child. They are the last muscles over which we lose control with the coming on of senility, paralysis, or any progressive decay of the nervous system. The other system, the accessory, comprises the little muscles of the fingers and the muscles of speech. These are the late and delicate adjustments of the neuro-muscular mechanism. They are the last to develop in the race and in the child, and the first to be lost in the loss of nervous control. They all involve delicate nervous coördinations. It requires many times the nervous strain to write my name that it does for me to walk across the floor. The fundamental muscles have, for the most part, only a single motion that they can make, — they respond to a single nervous discharge. We use the accessory muscles constantly in writing, drawing, sewing, embroidery, and the like. On the other hand, nearly all play uses the large fundamental muscles of the legs and trunk. Thus the influence of play is directly in the line of nervous stability. It is in the open air, it relieves nervous strains and worry, and it uses the fundamental muscles.

The Development of Grace. — Grace is the beauty of action, the poetry of motion. It is the quality by which we distinguish the gentleman and lady in the crowd. The lack of it seems to point out the boor. There are two elements

in awkwardness, a physical element and a mental element. The physical side of awkwardness is due to an unserviceable machine — muscles that have been stiffened by slow and hard contractions, a body that is muscle bound from the excessive development of certain muscles without the compensating development of others. The peasant peoples of Europe, whose lives have been spent in hard work, too long continued, are likely to be almost the incarnation of the spirit of awkwardness.

The other element in grace is psychophysical. It is the perfect coördination of the muscles. It is action without interference, the greatest motion for the smallest expenditure of energy. It is the perfect efficiency of the human mechanism, a motion that is well within the capacity of the doer and that seems to be done without effort. Grace always depends on unconscious absorption in the thing done. It must spring from its thought as unconsciously as the song from the soul of the bird and be the same sort of an expression of the thought and feeling of the moment. The regulation of movement belongs to the subconscious mind. Anything that elevates into consciousness motions that we are accustomed to do unconsciously tends to make them awkward. The conscious mind knows nothing about the mechanism of its motions. It does not know which string to pull, and whenever it takes over the work that the lower centers have been accustomed to perform, it does the work with vastly greater effort and it does it awkwardly. It is the case of the untrained mistress who dismisses the cook and undertakes to do the work herself. Every physical process, which requires voluntary attention and control, is done at greater nervous and muscular expense than the same process done without voluntary attention, and

it is never graceful in the same way. Nature intended movement to be the unconscious expression of an idea or purpose, that the attention should be on that purpose, and that the lower centers should be left to carry out the movement. It is believed that gymnastics and calisthenics tend to make conscious processes that should never be conscious, because they are much better done by the subconscious activity of the mind; that these motions tend to make the person awkward and muscle bound, that they are always done with an expenditure of nerve force, which is larger than it should be because of the unnecessary and unnatural consciousness of the motion itself. Professor Ash, in the *Journal of Sociology*, November, 1913, summarizing Woodworth and Claparede says, "Forms of industry in which the emphasis and attention must be directed to processes rather than purposes are more taxing and require a greater strain of conscious effort than those in which the individual is working toward a definite end, and in which the motive is interest in the outcome." (From "A Study of the Cause of Voluntary Movement.") We all think we know how to walk, but if we are to walk out upon a platform, and we get to thinking about it, we soon discover that we do not know how to walk. In all good play the movements made seem to be the natural expression of the concept in the mind. There is no consciousness of the motion made, the thought is fixed on the end to be secured. Drudgery tends to make the doer awkward, because there is no interest. The movements made are not an expression of either the conscious or the subconscious personality. It is not a thing done by a person, but by a machine without a soul.

Certain movements become graceful more easily than others.

If the movement is racially old, the coördinations for it exist in tendency and are easily acquired. Such movements may become graceful almost from the beginning.

Grace is an accomplishment that lies well within the sphere of training, but it must be natural training. Heavy work and heavy gymnastics, all drudgery, all work or movement where the movement itself rather than the thing to be done requires the attention, all movements where the action is not spontaneous but springs from the mind of another rather than the doer, will train toward large nervous expenditure for a small muscular result, and in general toward awkwardness. Nature's specifics for acquiring grace are play and dancing. Both play and dancing require light, rapid movements of the muscles. There is no consciousness of motion made in dancing after the dance has been learned, nor in play from the beginning. The movement seems to blossom from the idea as naturally as the flower from the stem. Both play and dancing are expressive of life and animation. Dancing has ordinarily been regarded as the easiest way to acquire grace. Dancing, however, is at several disadvantages, as compared with play and games. Very much of the grace of the dance is an illusion, it comes from the music and the moving together of a large number of people, expressing the rhythm and spirit. The individual movements, apart from the music and the other dancers, are not peculiarly graceful. During the process of learning, the movements are likely to be awkward. It takes the dance a long time to become really spontaneous, as natural an expression of the personality as the play of the child. It is hard anywhere to find anything more graceful than a group of little children, completely absorbed in their play, while it is well known that the first

attempts at dancing are not graceful, and it sometimes happens that even a very graceful dancer is awkwardness personified in everything else.

The motions represented in play are very ancient, the remnants of old racial activities. The nervous paths are ready formed, and consequently skill is acquired more easily and the individual is able to do more muscular work with less effort in play than he is in any other activity.

A Good Digestion. — If any one wishes to get dyspepsia, I can give him a perfectly good receipt. Ordinarily all that is necessary is for him to stay in the house, not take any exercise, and worry a good deal about the things going on. If, on the other hand, one would not have dyspepsia, I can give him just as good a receipt. All that is necessary, in most cases, is merely to write the other receipt backwards: to live out of doors, take plenty of exercise, and carry the spirit of play into the things he is doing. Certainly people who live under conditions even approaching these are seldom troubled with their digestion.

The open air has a tonic effect on all the systems of the body. Ordinarily I cannot drink coffee, but on a camping expedition I can drink six or seven cups a day and live on salt pork for the balance of my diet and never know the difference. The campers, who go off in the woods, live largely on stale bread, canned goods, and things they cook themselves, but I have never heard of any one's getting dyspepsia on a hunting or fishing trip.

Exercise is always considered as one of the best ways to secure a good digestion. It increases peristalsis, keeps the body vigorous, and demands so much food to supply its waste that it is difficult to overeat. Throughout history,

appetite and digestion have been adjusted to a state of physical activity.

Very many students get indigestion when they go away to school. They come from an active life out of doors where they require and can digest a large amount of food. They settle down to an inactive, sedentary life, mostly within doors. They do not require and cannot digest so much food as they have been accustomed to eat. They do not at once realize the change that has taken place and overstroke the engine. The results are likely to be much personal discomfort, a lessened capacity for work, and a mental attitude that makes them unpleasant companions. We have a common expression for the person who is disagreeable: "You must have eaten something that did not agree with you." It has always been one of woman's wiles, from the time of Queen Esther down, when she wishes to get some concession, first to give the person a good dinner, and depend on the feeling of well-being and good nature that follows to secure the concession that she wishes.

The mental attitude, however, is quite as important in digestion as exercise or the fresh air. If we are blue or depressed or angry or if for any reason we do not enjoy our food, we fail to digest it. It has been found by cutting the taste nerves in the mouth of a dog that the saliva and other juices are not secreted if the dog cannot taste his food, and that the food does not digest. I can give myself dyspepsia any time in a week, by having a fit of the blues. If I ever eat a hearty meal when I am worried or annoyed, it seldom sets comfortably. A short time ago I was talking with Mr. McMillan, who has recently gone on the polar expedition to Crocker Land. Mr. McMillan accompanied Lieutenant Peary on his dash to the pole. He said that in all polar expeditions up to the

time of Lieutenant Peary, when the long polar night came on, the men became very blue and despondent, and then they got dyspepsia, and the scurvy attacked the camp and prostrated the men. He said that Lieutenant Peary always took along several families of Eskimos with children; and the play of the children cheered up the company and then they had neither of these troubles. He said at the time I saw him (six months before starting) that he had already selected his Eskimos and that there were ten children in the families. He had chosen these particular families on account of the children, and the children for the purpose that I have stated. I believe this is good physiology and good psychology alike.

It is well known that vigorous prisoners often get dyspepsia of the worst kind from the depression of the prison life. Depression causes dyspepsia, while joy and happiness always improve the digestion. If one can carry with him into his work the joy of life and the spirit of play, he will not be much bothered by what he eats, if it does not transcend the laws of edibility by wide limits.

Sex Strength. — Sex is one of the vital functions. We have been accustomed to think of it as a localized function, but we now know that the erethisms of sex affect every cell in the body, and that it is the secondary sex secretions that cause the development of the virile qualities in the male and the feminine qualities in the female. This is why unsexing is so serious in its effects upon the individual. It causes in the male the loss of or the failure to develop courage, determination, and will, and largely the loss of physical strength and energy. In the female it causes the loss of the distinctively feminine qualities.

Just here is perhaps the greatest danger of childhood, that

it may fall into abuse or precocity of function and so fail in the full development of those qualities that are essentially masculine or feminine.

All recent studies and investigations go to show that this sex problem is a much greater one than we have realized, that it begins much earlier than we had supposed and is far more insistent. At a series of teachers' institutes in the Northwest, I was recently informed that the teacher of one rural school had caught every child in the school, both little and big boys and girls, in self-abuse, and that, at another school, nearly every boy and girl had been found in illicit relations. Freud finds that the shock of early sex experiences is the cause of most of the hysteria of later life.

Strong Heart and Lungs. — When we speak of the vital organs, most people think of the heart and lungs. Life itself is constantly dependent on them. Cut off the supply of blood to the brain for a single instant, and we lapse into unconsciousness. When our heart ceases to beat, our story is done. We cannot afford to neglect any precaution that might make it strong. Every heart is strong enough to stand its ordinary load, but there are times of strain that enter into every life, when much more is required of it. The heart must be strong enough to bear this unusual strain, or disaster is sure to follow. It is a common rule, in the building of bridges, that the bridge must be strong enough to bear six times its regular load, and surely any ordinary rule of safety would say that the heart must be able to bear much more than the strain of its regular work. The best training that we can give the heart comes from vigorous games in the open air. Nearly all of these games involve running. And it takes only a short sprint to run the heart rate up and to strengthen its beat. Some

forms of gymnastics secure the same result, but many of them do not. Arm exercises and leg exercises have little effect. A man might practice putting up a big dumb-bell every day for five years, but this would have very little effect upon the development of his heart and lungs. On the other hand, the fundamental muscles of the trunk and the big muscles of the legs all react directly upon the action of the heart and lungs, and most of these muscles are employed constantly in vigorous games.

The relation between the lung capacity and the body mass is usually spoken of in this country as the vital index. Dr. Montessori, in her latest work, "*Pedagogical Anthropology*," gives a somewhat different statement of the same principle, though it really means the same thing. She says: "The relation of the circumference of the chest to the total stature is spoken of by Goldstein as the index of life, in order to indicate that the organic resistance of any individual depends on the proportional relation between the thorax and the whole body; whoever has a narrow chest is liable to pulmonary tuberculosis and is in his physiological entirety a weakling." And again: "Whoever has weak lungs is, for that reason alone, a person who receives insufficient nutriment and frequently is also a melancholiac. Melancholia accompanies every form of physiological decadence. On the other hand, persons with ample lungs are generally serene of spirit and joyous. In fact, the emotion of joy is at the same time the cause and the consequence of an active circulation of oxygenated blood." "It is a fact that we often rid ourselves of a fit of melancholy by taking a walk in the open air. Persons possessed of good lungs feel within themselves a vital potentiality that perceptibly aids them to make what we call an "effort of will."

When sorrow befalls them or over-exertion has exhausted their strength, persons of this type feel some fresh force springing up within them, which gives them fresh hope and courage. It is their oxygenated blood which neither weariness nor depression of spirit can stay in its luxuriant course. The man of weak lungs, on the contrary, is mentally depressed, because his physiological life is slowed down; and instead of aiding him, it is his physiological life which demands of him a genuine effort of the will to reestablish its equilibrium."

"We must remember that healthy exercise of the lungs should take place in the open air."

"Anthropological studies made upon pupils have demonstrated that school children rarely attain a sufficient chest development. There can be no doubt that an assiduous application to the study table impoverishes the organism and above all impedes the normal development of the thorax." Montessori says that so far as the statistics have been gathered from orphan asylums in Italy they indicate that the death rate is pretty closely determined by the chest capacity. Again, "Deficiency of the thorax is one of the stigmata left by the school, which in this way tends to make the younger generation feeble and physiologically unbalanced."

"The admonitory fact that neglected, despised, half-starved children have an enormous advantage in the development of the thorax over the more intelligent children, who are well fed and carefully guarded, and solely because the former are free to run the streets, ought to point the direction in which we should look for means of helping the new generation hygienically. They have need of free movement and of air. The recreation rooms which tend to keep the children of the streets shut up indoors even during recess are taking from the

children of the people the sole advantage that still remained to them."

Any kind of life that does not fill the lungs up well with outdoor air for a part of the day at least is dangerous. For very many, merely to sit in a chair in the open air and sunshine is quite as valuable as the best physical exercise in a gymnasium. A pair of strong lungs is the best safeguard we can have against our two most fatal diseases, tuberculosis and pneumonia, and they are essential to our having a healthy blood supply both for the body and the brain. They fill out the chest and give the person a good carriage. These seem to be sufficient reasons for every one's taking the training that is necessary to give him such a healthy pair of lungs. They are worth what they cost as life insurance alone. Any kind of vigorous game which involves running will give this training.

The Establishment of Health. — Health is fundamental in physical training, because it is fundamental to the continuance of life and its enjoyment and to the largest success along every line of endeavor. By health, of course, we do not mean the absence of disease, but rather the active, vigorous functioning of every cell and gland, so that the body shall have vital resistance and a sense of well-being. This state of the body is mainly dependent on the state of the four great vital systems of the body: the nervous system; the digestion; the blood supply, which means the state of the heart and lungs; and sex. The person who has these four systems well developed and normal will have vital resistance and a sense of well-being, even though the toothache or a corn may make him at times uncomfortable. He may be carried off by a contagious disease, but in general such diseases will be less easily

taken and will be more easily overcome. If any of the other organs should get out of order, it will have the assistance of the ones we have mentioned to overcome its weakness.

We are everywhere to-day taking new interest in health. Cities are looking after their water supply and their sewage, cleaning up their alleys and tearing down unsanitary shacks. We are establishing milk stations for the babies, hospitals for the tuberculous, and free clinics everywhere. Schools are putting in departments of hygiene, and a new cabinet officer to have charge of health matters is proposed.

There is a new interest in the open air, also, which has grown largely out of the movement for the prevention of tuberculosis; so that we now have stringent requirements of ventilation and open-air rooms and open-air schools, and sleeping porches and summer camps. Our treatment of tuberculosis and pneumonia consists largely of fresh air. More and more all the sick children in the hospitals are placed in open-air wards. The open air and the sunlight invigorate the lungs; purify the blood and give the whole body resistance against all the ills that attack it. The person who lives much out of doors is seldom affected with tuberculosis, pneumonia, colds, dyspepsia, or nervous troubles. Now these are precisely the troubles which are most prevalent in America to-day. If we wish to keep the children out of doors, we must make staying out attractive. We cannot expect them to stir themselves, in order to stand on the street corner, especially if the weather is cold. We must remember, also, that there are all kinds of outdoor air, and that the air that is full of the dust of the streets, which analysis shows to be ninety-five per cent horse manure, may be no great improvement over the air inside the house.

The Prevention of Tuberculosis. — Organized play has a threefold relationship to tuberculosis. It keeps the child in the open air, it develops his lungs, and it gives his whole body resistance against disease. Tuberculosis is very prevalent among children. Dr. Schmidt, of Bonn, says in autopsies of German school children the tubercle bacillus is found in more than ninety per cent of the cases. Tuberculosis among school children is variously estimated from five per cent up in this country. Most estimates that I have seen lately place it as high as forty per cent. These estimates mean, of course, that the tubercle is found in the lungs of the children, not that they have the disease in an active form. At the International Meeting on School Hygiene, which was held in Buffalo in August, 1913, it was estimated by our leading specialist on tuberculosis that there were one million school children in this country who actually had the disease; by this statement it is to be presumed that he meant, in an active state, as having the tubercle is not the same as having the disease. More and more the specialists are coming to believe that here in these children, who have tuberculosis in an incipient form or who harbor the germs of the disease without actually having it, lies the great problem. Nearly every international congress on tuberculosis has passed some resolution favoring the playgrounds as an effective means in the prevention of tuberculosis. When I took charge at Washington, there were a number of children who were sent into the playgrounds by the parents because the doctors said that unless they kept these children in the open air and developed their lungs, they would die of tuberculosis within two or three years. The last year I was in Washington, two of these children, to my certain knowledge, won athletic contests

over the whole city, showing that they had so built up their lungs that they had entirely thrown off the tubercular tendency, and had become the strongest children we had. The Bureau of the Census estimates that from six to seven thousand school children die of tuberculosis every year. Almost every one of these deaths would have been prevented if these children from infancy had had a proper amount of open-air play, and at least as many other deaths would have been prevented by building up the constitution and strengthening the physique that comes in the same way.

The Avoidance of Colds. — People who live in the open air are very nearly immune from troubles of the lungs and nasal passages. The sailor at the mast wears his shirt open at the bosom in the depths of the winter, but he never "catches cold." The soldiers on the march are subject to constant exposure, — wet feet, wet beds, and hardships, — but according to General Sternberg, former Surgeon General of the Army, they never have colds. In the camps of the tuberculous, though the tents are open at all times and the patients are much impaired in general vitality, colds are almost unknown. By sleeping on a sleeping porch at home, I avoid colds and acquire a resistance which keeps me immune for two or three weeks after I start on a lecture tour. But after that I begin to "catch colds," as I used to do in the days when I slept indoors. Colds and grip are all too prevalent. People do not often die in consequence, but their resistance and working efficiency is impaired by them.

Apparently the open air and a general physical development make the body more resistant to all diseases and reduce the death rate from all.

Vital Resistance. — The vital resistance of the individual

depends on his vital strength, which means, in the main, the strength of these vital systems of the body, together with the will to live and the joy in life which is their psychic side. Of a thousand people exposed to tuberculosis, probably not more than forty or fifty become infected. Those who do not take it have vital resistance. Of a thousand people exposed to the grip, perhaps not more than one hundred will come down with the disease, and of these some will throw it off in a day or two, some within a week, while others will not be able to throw it off for months. Those who do not take the disease or who throw it off quickly are the ones with vital resistance. Such resistance is worth all it costs as life insurance and sickness insurance, and apparently it is very largely dependent on enjoyable exercise in the open air that stimulates powerfully the circulation of the blood and the digestion of food. It is exercise that uses the fundamental muscles of the body. Apparently play meets these conditions better than any other form of exercise.

Summary. — Play tends to develop a man of the type of Apollo rather than Hercules. Apollo is the athlete; Hercules, the gymnast. Play will never put knots and bunches of muscle over the body. Gymnastics undoubtedly has the advantage in building up muscle mass, but it must be said of such muscular development, that there is little place for it in modern life, and that it may well be a veritable vampire feeding on the vitality of the professional worker. Play does, however, tend to give physical efficiency, a good carriage, a full chest, a bright eye, a good complexion, grace, a stable nervous system, a good digestion, a healthy sex development, strong heart and lungs, and robust health. These are the really significant aims in physical training. In the securing of all

of these purposes, there are three elements that are of very nearly equal importance: They are fresh air, the joy of the spirit in the activity, and the exercise itself. Gymnastics of the old type has only one of these elements. Of course it must be held in mind that the gymnastics in our gymnasiums is, at the present time, largely basket ball and dancing, and not, properly speaking, gymnastics at all; but no exercise can be wholly satisfactory that is within doors.

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CHAPTER III

PLAY AND THE TRAINING OF THE INTELLECT

THERE are no two ideas that are more strongly contrasted in the mind of the ordinary small boy than the ideas of play and education. Nevertheless, as we have already perceived, there is no such contrast in fact; for Groos assures us that play is the only form of education in the animal world; that it is for the purpose of play, and consequently of education, that infancy exists. As we are aware, the child, up to the time that he enters school, spends nearly all of his energy in play, and, it has been said, he learns more in these first six years than he does in all of the years that come afterward. It is in his play that the child gains control of his body, that he acquires accuracy and precision in motion, and in judging distances, sights, and sounds.

Among all primitive peoples the education of the child is derived almost entirely from his play, and nearly all early systems followed this method, as will be seen in the systems of athletic training pursued in Persia, Greece, and Rome. Even in the days of Pericles, where a period of forty years in a country with a citizenship of not more than ten thousand produced more great men than any other country has produced in a century, at least half of each school day was devoted to organized games and athletics. The submerging of Greece and Rome brought a period of twilight to Europe, and it appeared for a time that the culture of the classical age had

been lost. With the rediscovery of the classical learning, it seemed as though a new sun had arisen, and the thought everywhere prevailed that all that was worth learning was stored up in these old volumes, and that education consisted in the mastering of their contents. Although it arose out of a peculiar condition in history and did not represent the conditions out of which the classical learning and literature itself arose, this idea has largely prevailed up to the present.

What is the Object of Education? — We cannot well proceed in the considering of play as an element in education without first asking ourselves what we mean by the latter term. It is quite obvious that play will not teach us arithmetic or geography; we shall not master Latin or Greek by playing baseball; and if education consists in gaining information of foreign countries or languages or theorems, then play will not give us an education. But we may well question this ideal. Is there any considerable object in the barber's, the shoemaker's, or the grocer's becoming a scholar? Is it important that any of them should know the location of all the cities in Asia, or cube root, or Latin, or Greek, or the theorems in geometry? These facts do not seem significant in the lives that they are leading. For those who have made curricula, learning has seemed an end in itself; but to the great mass of mankind, knowledge is useful only so far as it promotes efficiency in the practical affairs of life; and it would seem that many of the things that we have taught in the schools of the past have little to offer towards the industrial or social efficiency of the workman or the housewife, who constitute nine tenths of the product of the public schools.

Not only has it been true that the things taught in the schools have had no close relationship to either the business

or the social life of the ordinary citizen, but it has never yet proven true that effectiveness has been in direct proportion to knowledge, as there are many other elements besides information that go to make the effective individual; and self-confidence, energy, and a fixed purpose, with a small amount of information, oftentimes accomplish vastly more than encyclopedic knowledge without these accompaniments. In fact, it may well be questioned if encyclopedic knowledge on general subjects adds greatly to the effectiveness of the individual anywhere.

Childhood is essentially the motor period of life, and every idea tends to immediate expression in some form of action. From all biological and psychological studies it would appear that the mind was not intended for a bin or granary in which to store a wealth of knowledge, but that it was intended for a workhouse where knowledge should be gathered for immediate use and wrought into action almost as soon as it is gathered. The typical "grind" in school and college often uses his energy so completely in the acquisition of knowledge that he has none left to make this knowledge effective. Probably teachers as a class, who represent the diligent and successful scholars for the most part, are less effective in the community in proportion to their knowledge than business men or those belonging to other professions for this reason; and there are many who have vast power in the acquisition of knowledge who have almost completely lost the power of utilizing this knowledge.

What Material is Educational?—The school seems to have concluded in the past that the knowledge and arts that should be taught to the child are the things that the adult will need to use, that childhood itself may be disregarded as

a useless period, having little to offer for life, and that it should be utilized merely to prepare the child to be successful in the affairs which are to come later. Consequently, the things which must be taught to him are the problems and the material for the solution of the problems of adult life. But these things are not at this time interesting to the child, and in an age of such kaleidoscopic progress as the present it is almost impossible to predict to-day what life will require of any one ten years hence. The problems of adult life are not the problems of childhood, and very often have little appeal to the child. Psychology and sociology are perhaps the most significant sciences in regard to human well-being, but we all realize that it would be absurd to teach these sciences to children. Modern psychology is coming to see that material is educational to a child pretty much in proportion to its interest, and that if it does not stimulate the mind to action, it matters little how important the material may be in itself, it will not be really educational. It is no more possible to make the child think as a man than it is to make him six feet tall, and we must get away from the idea of the school as a preparation for adult life and think of it rather as a preparation of the child for a more successful childhood. It must help him to solve the problems of the morrow, to be more efficient in the things which his life offers, and not to solve the problems of a man of forty. The things that we remember are in general more educational than the things that we forget, because the remembered material is likely to become a permanent part of our personality, while the forgotten material can only linger in the subconsciousness. Judged from this standard, very much that we have given the children in the schools has been far from ideal educational material, as it has not aroused the

mind of the child, but has tended to make him sleepy and stupid and for the most part it has soon been forgotten. Play trains the child in the arts of childhood.

There have been a number of studies tending to show that the person with a college education stands a much larger chance of success in life than the person who has not this education, and this is doubtless true on the whole; but it must be remembered that the college student is a thrice-selected individual, that for the most part he is the descendant of capable parents, that he is brought up in a cultured home, and that he probably has an unusual amount of ability and energy in the first place, or he would not have cared to go on from the high school or academy. It does not follow that the college studies have made this individual more successful than he would have been had he spent a similar number of years in travel or business or play. In fact, it has been shown recently that there are more than twice as many men in "Who's Who" from the ranks of the athletes, though a smaller number, than there are from the Phi Beta Kappa men.

It is to be suspected, also, that the man who has gone through a period of intellectual forcing, such as is often represented in a Ph.D. degree, probably reaches a premature intellectual maturity and does not continue to develop intellectually through as long a period as he might otherwise have done. There are very few, I fancy, with the higher university degrees who have blossomed out after seventy as has Andrew Carnegie and many other men of affairs who might be mentioned, although the college men have gained a wealth of knowledge which can only reach its final syntheses after a long period of years.

We may well question, also, the central idea that seems to

lie behind our system of education, which is, apparently, that the mind is chiefly developed by the acquiring of information and the solving of academic problems. Certainly, to no small extent, intellectual capacity comes not through a process of steady growth, but through a series of rapid advancements which follow something that arouses a new instinct or awakes a new area of the mind. A new experience will often give a new point of view and increase the effectiveness of the individual along every line. Such maximal experiences are found more often in the relationships of one individual to another, or in the contests of the playground, I fancy, than they are in the studies of the classroom.

The Development of Energy. — One of the most determining things in life is certainly the amount of energy which the person has at his command. There are those who are born tired. After two or three hours of work they are exhausted and find any form of effort painful; and there are others who can work fifteen or eighteen hours a day and enjoy it. The person with a fifteen-hour energy may do good or ill in the world, but he will do something. On the other hand, those with a three-hour energy are constantly recruiting the ranks of the unemployable. The Child Labor Committee states in its various reports that our army of tramps is largely made up of the child workers who have grown up; that hard work during childhood uses the energy of later life and leaves the person in adult years without a sufficient supply to make work pleasant or successful; and it has even been stated by certain authorities that the work years will be three times the play years; that if the child goes to work at ten, he will be practically superannuated at forty; if he goes to work at fifteen, at sixty. But of course there are limits to such a theory.

There can be little question, however, but play is the great source for the development of energy. A boy can play all day long and expend constantly an amount of energy that would exhaust him in an hour if he were working. Play represents old racial activities for which we have hereditary coördinations. We are able to perform the same feats with less effort in play than we are in work, but we also have the ability to make greater exertion, because the play activities are the ones through which the brain and the nervous system were developed, and play has at its command those deeper layers of energy which are only reached with difficulty through work.

It has become a custom among many of the better-to-do families of the South to send their children north to be educated. I believe that this is a wise custom. A hot, moist climate is depressing, and it is much more difficult to be energetic in such a climate than it is in a cooler and drier one. Nevertheless, as every one knows, the northern man, who finds the southern climate more trying than the man who was born and brought up there, is more energetic in the South than is the native. But the children of southern parents who have come to the North and played with northern children go back to the South to be as energetic as though their parents had been northern people. This seems to me to mean in part that if we can secure energetic play in childhood, we have solved the problem of an energetic adult life as well. If education is to mean preparation for a life of efficiency and achievement, this surely must be one of the major purposes of education.

Play trains for Practical Life. — Play will not produce philosophers! We are coming to-day to see that the best

preparation for life is living; and play, representing as it does the life of the past, is much nearer to a life of business or politics or society than is the schoolroom and its studies. If we seek to train for society, it would be hard to find a better method; for play is social in its nature, and it requires friendship for its continuance. While there is rivalry, there is also comradeship as an essential element in all good play. If a boy would prepare himself for politics and affairs, where will he get a better experience than in the leadership and organization of the playground? Nearly all leaders of men have probably been trained in this way.

There are those who are like a beam of sunshine in any social group. Their presence is always welcome for their cheerfulness and their optimism; and there are others who, despite the best of intentions and even the highest of abilities, are generally unwelcome companions because of the depressing view of life which they represent. The joy and hilarity of any group shrivels up in their presence like flowers before a March wind.

The spirit of play is that spirit of joyfulness, of alertness, of optimism which we all love to see in others. I doubt if the child who from earliest years has had overmuch hard work to do, even though that work be the lessons in the school, can ever have that joyousness of spirit which makes him or her a really pleasant companion.

Our efforts and success are always largely determined by our desires. There are many who come through our school systems, perhaps with a Ph.D. degree, but with a feeling at the end that life is dead upon their hands, that there is nothing much which they desire, that they have no motive for any intense effort. Study that is carried on too long and that uses

all the available energy kills desire, as it does also the effective working out of ideas into facts. But play is always suffused with emotion and animated by an intense feeling. If this animation, vivacity of mind, and intensity of desire are carried over from childhood's play into adult life, they make possible and even necessary our largest efforts.

Training the Judgment. — The school, all the way along, is teaching deferred judgment. It tells us to weigh the evidence on the one side against the evidence on the other, and on that basis to come to a mature conclusion. There are times when the ability to form a judgment of this kind is exceedingly important, but these are the crises of life and not the everyday, every-hour, every-minute judgments which we must make if we are to be practically efficient. It is the ability to make these judgments rapidly and accurately which makes the successful person both in society and in business, and it is just this type of judgment which play everywhere trains.

Take a game of baseball as an example. One boy is on first, and another is on second. A fielder gets a liner in the middle field. Shall he throw the ball to first or second or third? Shall he try to touch the runner and make a double play? He must decide in a quarter of a second and act upon that decision instantly or he will never make a successful ball player. If his judgment is right, handkerchiefs are waved on the grandstand and he is generously applauded; if he makes a mistake, he is hissed and called a fool. There is no mincing of terms on the ball field. Everything in the game is seeking to stimulate him to do his level best and to do it quickly. His accurate judgment is rewarded by instant applause, and his mistake by a condemnation that is no less immediate. It is this accuracy and rapidity of forming

judgments on minor things that makes most of the practical efficiency in life. Nearly every kind of game gives this same training in quickness and accuracy of judgment and in immediate and forcible response. It imparts to the mind an alertness and vivacity which are essential to any large success either in business or society.

Team Play, the Greatest of Mental Stimuli. — Play represents almost exactly those conditions and activities through which the human brain was developed. The primitive mind was lethargic and inert. It was only under the stimulus of peril, hunger, and immediate need that it was forced into action, and this type of activity has survived in play. The child often becomes sleepy and stupid in the schoolroom, but he always wakes up when he gets out upon the playground. Play is the one universal stimulus to the intelligence of the child.

The old adage says, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," and observation has everywhere confirmed the statement. But we have not always perceived that the school has often done the same thing, and that a considerable percentage of the children are made stupid by it and their minds are only aroused to action when they escape into the playground or into some form of activity which appeals to them. I suspect that many a child who has spent seven or eight years in dozing over lessons which meant little to him has probably been crippled for life; and perhaps the bright boy who has gotten into a habit of doing one hour's work in three or four hours' time, because that represented the average pace of the class, has suffered no less.

Probably the team game is offering the most important training that is being given to our boys in any form.

The greatest rewards that life ever proffers for a moment's superior ability are offered to the players in our great inter-collegiate games. If one would be distinguished in law or medicine, it will be the labor of years, and then the fame will mostly be of the distant kind. Other learned and able men in various parts of the world will speak well of him and his ability, though very likely those who meet him on the street and live next to him may know nothing about it. But if a man runs the length of the field for a touch-down in a Yale-Harvard game, he will see his picture in all the great dailies the next day and will find himself famous, both among his college associates and in society. He is likely to be a lion among the ladies and to secure that sort of social recognition which is always coveted more than all else by youth. In all such play, there is a manifold stimulus that is acting upon the man: there is the stimulus that comes from himself and his own desire to do creditably and to win. There is the stimulus that comes from the other members of the team and their social compulsion for him to do his best for their sakes as well as his own. There is the coach who must be pleased and justified, the student body whom he represents and who exercise over him all the time the compelling force of their own desires. There is the great audience that fills the stadium, ready to cheer itself hoarse, to wave banners and handkerchiefs, or to hiss and sulk into silence, according as he does well or ill. And still beyond the stadium and its thousands are the millions who are looking on through the cameras and pens of the newspapers. If it is possible to awaken a lethargic nature, and make a stupid mind think, here is surely the motive. We may well question if any nervous system is fitted to stand such a series of cumu-

lative incitements to effort, and whether it must not almost inevitably mean an overstrain both of the nerves and of the muscles in such extreme cases where the sentiment of the student body says, "do or die," in a great game. However, there can be no questions of the intellectual stimulation, and, in the playgrounds, there is not so great danger that it will be excessive.

Play and Mental Habit. — 'All educators are agreed that the chief purpose of education is the acquiring of an alertness of mind and right mental habits. The attitude of mind which is found in play is the attitude which represents the greatest efficiency in all mental effort ; for in all good play there is a complete absorption in the thing at hand, entire forgetfulness of self, and that intuitive following of spirit guidance which leads to the largest result with the least effort. Any work done in this spirit becomes an art. The person who goes forward into mature life carrying into his work this same self-forgetfulness, this same absorption in the activity in hand, this same unconscious following of the guidance of the spirit, will be a poet, an artist, a genius ; for these all are essentially grown-up children who have preserved to mature years the simplicity and spontaneity of the child. ¹

CHAPTER IV

PLAY AND THE FORMATION OF HABITS AND CHARACTER

✓ GAMES and athletics are the activities of our ancestors conventionalized and adapted to present conditions. They are reminiscent of a physical age, of the struggle for survival, of the hunt, of the chase, and of war. The world of play is the real world of the child about which the workaday world hovers as an unreal but threatening wraith. The child thinks and acts in terms of play. It is in play and play companionships that he gets nearly all his experience. It is in play that he forms nearly all his habits. Play furnishes the groundwork, the apperception center that must interpret all later acquisitions. The forms of training which come from it are as wide as the human soul.

We send the children to the Sunday school to learn to be good, but *knowing* what is right and *doing* what is right are different things. The children get their conceptions of right and wrong from what we teach them, but it is in their play that they put these conceptions into practice. ✓ It does not follow that because the child knows that it is wrong to lie that he will tell the truth. I presume that some of us may even know adults who do not always do that.

Here is the practical difficulty that lies behind all system of ethics and all teaching of morals in the schools. I have known a number of Ph.D's who carried over from their childhood associations a number of ungrammatical expressions,

which the long period of their education had not corrected. If wrong ways of acting once get into habits, their elimination through precept is a long and painful process. The precept has to be impressed very strongly if it is to have any effect at all, and it is always comparatively ineffective.

Precepts are never as effective as positive ideals that may be directly copied, but even the ideals that come through teaching are comparatively cold and lifeless; they do not have the power or vividness of examples that we see. An ideal character from a book is for most children scarce one per cent as efficient as the same person would be in real life.

✓ **Play and Idleness.** — There are many people who always confuse play with idleness, although the two are almost the exact opposites of each other. The child who is working on his arithmetic lesson is using a few muscles in his fingers and a few cells in his brain, but the rest of him is idle. On the other hand, the boy who is playing baseball is using nearly every muscle in his body and nearly every cell in his brain. His emotional nature is equally active. People will often forbid their children to play with certain other children. There may be reason for the prohibition, but the danger does not come from the play. A boy can play baseball with eight other boys, all of whom belong in a reform school, and, so long as he plays, he will not suffer any harm; but let him loaf around with them for half an hour and the effects of that half hour may mar a whole life. A girl can play basket ball with four loose girls and remain a perfectly good and virtuous girl through any number of games; but let her spend an afternoon in gossiping with those girls, and it may color her thought for a lifetime. The Devil not only finds things for idle hands to do, but he finds thoughts for idle brains to think and words

for idle tongues to say. All of the vices of childhood are nourished in idleness, and almost anything that prevents the idleness will also prevent the vice. It is the fact that our city children, at the present time, have nothing to do in the time when they are not in school, that makes the playground problem the great problem that it is.✓

The habit of idleness, formed in youth, grows naturally in the adult into loafing and all that series of crimes that are attendant thereto. "The boy without a playground is father to the man without a job," and the man who is not willing to work finds it necessary to make his living in some easier way, which can only come through begging, gambling, stealing, or some other illegitimate method.

In the past the problem of idleness has been a great problem, perhaps the greatest problem of our city children. With the shortening of the hours of labor, which is everywhere going on, it becomes a great problem of the adults as well. If increased leisure is to mean increased dissipation, it will be only a curse. The man who has spent his day bending over a desk or inhaling the fetid air of a factory is not going home at four or five to read books or exercise in a gymnasium. It is not best for him to do so. How very much better it will be for the community if we can inspire in the children such a healthy love for sport that this leisure time will be spent in vigorous games. If it is necessary for a free country to educate its citizens in order to protect the ballot, is it not equally necessary to provide for their amusement in order to protect their morals? If we accept the conclusion of Kidd that the survival of countries is not determined by the intellectual or physical standards of the people, but by their moral rectitude, then the question of their recreation should be a prime consideration of lawmakers; for

the formation of evil habits comes almost entirely from leisure hours.

Child a Free Agent in his Play. — All play is social conduct. It affects directly the happiness or unhappiness of the participants. It is just as moral or immoral as life itself. In play the child is a free agent. In the schoolroom and the home he is following the ideals of his elders, he is doing the things he is told to do. He is not acting from an inner impulse or following the leadings of his own spirit. The number of choices are few, and these are accompanied with little emotional arousement. The child is too passive in his seat in school to be able to will strongly if he wished to. Much the same things are true in the home. The child is doing the things that his parents order. It is only in his play that he is doing the things that he really wants to do and is acting from the inner law of his own being, and it is hence only in his play that he is a free agent and that his conduct is really moral. The choices of the playground are innumerable, and he has the strongest kind of incentives to carry out his decisions. We will strongly, in proportion to our desire and interest, and it is only in his play that the child has a maximum of desire and interest. The rewards are instantaneous, and the child usually has a sufficient motive for what he is about to do.

The child not only wills strongly, but he must act at once, if he is to act effectively. A second hence it may be too late. It is estimated that of the men who get safely to first base, they have a margin of not more than a fifth of a second, on an average; which means that if the fielders had been a fifth of a second quicker, the runners would have been put out. If they had been a fifth of a second slower, probably two or three times as many runners would have got to first.

Why not Undirected Play? — There are many who have never been able to see the reasons for directed play. Play, whether directed or not, will be good for children physically. It will tend to make them healthier and stronger. Undirected play, however, is often a bad thing for children morally. The undirected playground is likely to fall into the hands of the young loafers of the community, who are supported, as Mr. Lee suggests, on their mother's washings. These young gentlemen are likely to smoke and swear and tell obscene tales. Their ideals of sportsmanship are the ideals of winning in any way possible. Such a playground is not really undirected. It is directed by these young toughs and rowdies and expresses their ideals. Such a ground always becomes a place where loose boys and girls meet each other and is liable to become the source of general immorality. The director of a properly conducted playground does not direct its activities in the sense in which this is usually understood. He starts the procession, he organizes or gets the children to organize the team; he arranges the tournaments and contests; but the child is no less a free agent in the directed playground than he is in the undirected one.

Imitation. — In the first days in New York, the children would repeatedly bring in a game from the street which had been dragged through the gutter in their ordinary play until it had taken up all the filth of the gutter. The teacher would play the game with the children. She would leave off the vulgar expression. She would say "If you please," instead of striking the next child. In a few days all the children would be playing the game in the same way that the teacher had played it. They would take it out on the street and play it in its revised form. The Playground and Recreation Associa-

tion says in its "Normal Course in Play" that, "No one should be placed in charge of children who is not of pleasing personality." The play teacher who enters enthusiastically into her job sows her personality broadcast as no other person does. The teacher in the classroom does not begin to be imitated as does the popular teacher who plays with them in the playground. It would be well worth while to furnish a high-grade person in every playground just for the purpose of establishing through imitation the children's conception of right conduct, even though there were no other object in organized play. In the down-town section of a great city, one can often distinguish the children who have been to the kindergarten by the way they treat each other. They have acquired a habit of politeness.

Play and the Expression of Primitive Impulses. — The recapitulation theory maintains that, with certain limitations, the individual repeats the history of the race, passing up through stages that correspond closely to savagery, barbarism, semicivilization to civilization. The boy is a natural barbarian. He has the same motor interests and desires. He wants to hunt and fish, to live in the open, and to sit around a camp fire. His interests and ideals are interests and ideals of action. The Boy Scouts have been organized in every country of the civilized world in the last five years, because they appealed to this fundamental interest of boys. It is of such activities that boys have always loved to read and hear. The Earl of Meath said forty years ago, "The question of crime in our cities is mainly a question of athletics." The boy cooped up in the schoolroom during the day and set to study his lesson at night is in pretty much the same position that an Indian would be under the same conditions. The motor effective side of him

finds no expression. The life he leads does not appeal to his inner nature. He grows restless from unused physical energy, and his warrior soul rebels against the sleep-producing and, to him, benumbing curriculum of the schoolroom. If this boy can find in athletics vent for his motor interests and desires, he may be saved to civilization, but if he cannot, he is very likely to become delinquent under the strain. A short time ago I heard a distinguished lecturer, in speaking to an audience, mostly of men, say, "If there is any one in this audience who has never done anything that would have brought him before the juvenile court if he had been caught at it, will he please raise his hand?" There was not a person in the audience who raised his hand. Much, if not most, that we call delinquency in our cities is the following the law of childhood in opposition to the law of the city, and woe to the city in which there is no attempt to make its laws harmonize with the law of a childhood.

Profanity and Obscenity. — Parents often do not dream the kind of language that their children are using on the streets and in the alleys where they are playing by themselves. I am confident, because I have so often observed the language of the children on the streets, and because I have been at the opening of so many new playgrounds.

At one time we opened in Washington a playground on what had been up to that time an unused public park. A gentleman, some sixty-five years of age, owned all the houses on the end of the block opposite the playground. His children were grown up, and he objected to having a playground there. The first week that it was opened he went out with his notebook, and took down all the bad things he heard the children say. He got a very choice collection. He sent these in to the com-

missioners of the district and said : " See here, I have heard all that bad language in this playground in one week. It ought to be closed." Of course he had made a mere collection of street language. At another time I sent a young theologian down to open a new playground in the worst section of Washington. He came back after a week and said : " I want to give it up, I don't think it is a proper place for me to be. Even the girls talk worse down here than I have ever known the boys to talk elsewhere." In the slum of the city such language is always found to abound in the beginning, but if you will go back after a few months, if the playground has been well conducted, the language will be found to have largely disappeared. The improvement has come from the social atmosphere of the playground and the influence of the playground director and the knowledge that such language is not permitted. I do not say that these children have ceased to use language of this kind, but they have got into a habit of playing without it, and, I believe, they use much less of it on the streets than they did before. It has certainly become a smaller element in their lives and less a part of their ideal of manliness, an ideal which is likely to be absorbed from the corner loafer and bully.

Play and the Development of the Will. — The muscles are the organs of the will, and a flabbiness of muscles is apt to be accompanied by a flabbiness of will. Every one needs a strong will in order that he may be able to withstand the temptations of life. I believe the present training of the schools tends to weaken and retard the action of the will and leave the man or woman at the mercy of many temptations. There are two essentially different types of volition. The one is represented by an abiding purpose ; it is the determination to accomplish

something. The strong will may set itself to such a purpose and order an entire life in accordance with its requirements. Such a purpose may come through study and the training of the schools. The second type of will is shown in our constant innumerable decisions. It is this type of will that must deal with the temptations which seem ever to spring upon us from ambush from the wayside of life. "Come with me to this questionable resort or dance." "Take a drink with us." It is temptations of this sort that, like lions and wicked giants, beset our pathway. In matters of temptation, "he who hesitates is lost." The decision must be instantly made and acted upon, or it is likely to be wrong. If we dwell on the temptation, we yield to it. The school teaches deferred judgment and the weighing of evidence. It gives us the sort of a training that would enable us to choose a life purpose, but it often renders us helpless in the presence of circumstances requiring instant action. This, I suppose, is one reason that scholars are so seldom chosen to direct great enterprises along the line of their scholarship.

The best training that we know for the type of instant decision and execution that virtue requires comes from athletics. Briggs finds that they are the best safeguard against the social evil at Harvard, and this is surely true in many of our colleges. A boy is playing baseball. All good play involves a training in instantaneous judgment and in the immediate execution of that decision with all the power the person possesses. The person who acts in this way in regard to temptation will be a moral person, as a rule, because the judgment is usually right in the beginning. It is only when the mind comes to be dominated by the temptation, by letting it dwell upon it, that decisions are wrong and temptations get the upper hand.

It is just this type of instant decision that is needed also in the discipline of the schoolroom, in business, and in society.

Sportsmanship.—[†]Sportsmanship is primitive ethics. It says that you shall play fair, that you shall try your best to win and work all the harder when the odds are against you, but that you shall accept defeat with a smiling face and come back to try again the next time, that you shall accept the decisions of the umpire and not try to avenge yourself for your defeat by calling your opponents names or throwing stones at them, that you shall treat the visiting team as your guests and give them the advantage of position, if there is an advantage. Boys and girls do not inherit this knowledge; the custom of the vacant-lot play and unorganized competition is entirely at variance with it. Yet this is really the most fundamental lesson of conduct and public behavior that these children have to learn. It seems to me that it is well worth putting play into the curriculum to require sportsmanship alone. As the experience of the last half century has shown, the children are not going to acquire sportsmanship unless it is taught to them.✓

A Sense of Justice. — In the play of the street, might makes right; the small boy does not expect to have any rights where big boys are concerned. The easiest way to get the thing you want is often to take it away from some one else. When the playgrounds were first opened in our great cities, there would often be only a dozen or twenty swings, while there would be five or six hundred children who wished to use them. A small boy would come in and sit down in a swing. A big boy would come along, jerk the little boy out, and sit down in his place. Big boys, apparently, had not been accustomed to waiting their turns with the little boys. Should you go back after three or four weeks, if the playground had been well

conducted, the big boy would be standing in line with the little boy. He had acquired a new sense of justice and the square deal.

Play and Honesty. — I wonder if any of my readers has ever seen a group of children playing croquet, and one of them calling the attention of the company to something else while he is rolling the ball along in front of the wicket. There is a similar opportunity for cheating in many other games, and the child who has formed a habit of cheating in his play has formed a habit which goes with him into mature life. People will often say, "You must teach the children to be honest in business." But children do not learn to be honest in this way. They have formed a habit of cheating or of honesty long before the business period arrives. I do not say that every child who cheats in his play will cheat also in business, but I should be very suspicious of it, and I am quite sure on the positive side that a child who has learned to be honest in his play will be honest also in business. ✓I was talking a short time ago with the manager of the great Sears Roebuck Co. of Chicago. He said: "We never employ a man from certain of these great schools around here. We have found that the athletics in these schools are crooked and that we cannot trust the men." This accusation is certainly true of many schools. The athletics teach them to be crooked more effectively than the ethical department teaches them to be honest.

Under the conditions of street play, might makes right. It is nearly always to the advantage of the big boy to take the thing away from the little boy. It is usually to his advantage to cheat in his play. We cannot expect high conceptions of honor to grow up under these conditions. No adult community could exist for a week without direction. Take

away our police and prisons, our judges and juries, and allow every one to do as he chooses, and the strong to take the things away from the weak, and we have essentially the conditions under which the children are playing. When we put the director into the playground, we put the umpire over the game. The umpire makes cheating unprofitable, and very soon there is developed a sense of sportsmanship that says it is unmanly. You are to win games by your own prowess and skill. Cheating is the device of a weakling who "cannot deliver the goods." It takes the victory from the victor and gives it to one who has not earned it; it is unsportsmanlike and mean. Cheating is a constant source of quarrels among children, and the child who cheats is prevented thereby from acquiring skill, because he is not putting his trust in skillful playing, but in dodging the rules. Children have nothing to do with business or financial honesty. Their honesty is that of personal relationships, which occur almost entirely in play. ✓

Cigarettes. — There is a large amount of cigarette smoking in all of our great cities. Boys are constantly coming upon the playgrounds with cigarettes, until they realize that this is not permitted. The playgrounds largely prevent cigarette smoking by giving different ideals. The habitual cigarette smoker is apt to be a pale, anemic weakling and degenerate, who stands on the street corner and makes worldly-wise comments on the girls and women as they go by. He is the opposite in nearly every way of the athletic type of boy. He likes to attend athletic contests, as his prototype in Rome did the gladiatorial exhibitions, but he usually takes no part in them.

Cigarettes seem to have a direct action on the heart and the lungs. It is difficult for the cigarette smoker to become an athlete, because cigarettes make the heart irregular and often

cause palpitations. It prevents the development of an adequate lung capacity. The physical examinations given at Yale during a long series of years indicate that the smokers average thirty cubic inches less lung capacity than the non-smokers. This result has not been found at some other colleges; but whether this is true or not, it is generally agreed that the action of cigarettes is deleterious on both the heart and lungs of young smokers.

It is in periods of idleness that boys form the habit of smoking. Organized play prevents a large part of the idleness. The boy smokes, probably, because the corner loafer with whom he associates smokes. The playground gives him different ideals of manliness. He soon learns that if he would succeed in athletics, and there are no other laurels quite so alluring, he must abstain from cigarettes, because they "take his wind."

Drinking. — Another bad habit which organized play serves to break is the habit of drinking. The well-organized playground that is open at night is the most successful rival of the saloon that has thus far been found. In the congested parts of our great cities the saloon is the poor man's club; he goes there largely for social reasons. With the opening of the playground that provides athletics he has another place to go. He has other interests to absorb his thoughts and a whole new set of ideals, which are in opposition to the ideals of the saloon. Saloon keepers have usually complained that the playgrounds and social centers interfered with their business. Athletics are about the most intense interest of adolescents, and the young man knows that it is one or the other, — that he cannot drink much and be an athlete. Some college athletes drink, but they quit it as soon as they go into training, because

they know that drinking would jeopardize their chances of success. If there is in the playground a physical director of the right type, these young men see in him a successful athlete who does not drink. He is likely to influence them towards abstinence.

In an investigation that was made in New York two years ago, it was found that there were something over fifteen hundred clubs meeting on the East Side of the city. A typical club with thirty members and dues of ten cents a week was taken and a meeting place was sought for them. It was found there were almost no desirable rooms for such meetings except in connection with the saloons. These could often be had very cheaply, and sometimes for nothing, but they were always rented on the condition that the "club patronize the bar."

A large part of the drinking that does not come from an inherited appetite springs from a desire for sociability and an attempt to escape from the pressure and oppression of monotonous work. It is the desire for a new sensation, for something that will stir the spirit and make the person feel alive. This play can do as well as drink.

Sex. — Play uses the time that is otherwise oftentimes used for obscene gossip and the planning of questionable adventures. It uses the energy that often goes to dissipation. It promotes both a healthy fatigue that does not seek other adventures and a sound sleep. It seems to be also a vicarious expression of the sex impulse. Athletics strengthen the will and form a habit of instant decision. It is believed that the school oftentimes puts the youth at the mercy of temptations by slowing up the processes of judgment. In temptations of sex, "he who hesitates is lost." A habit of deferring decisions

puts the tempted in the power of the temptation, because a temptation that is dwelt upon is nearly always yielded to.

Jane Addams said in her Chicago address at the Play Congress: "Amusement is stronger than vice, and it alone can stifle the lust for it. We see all about us much vice which is merely a love for pleasure 'gone wrong,' the illicit expression of what might have been not only normal and recreative pleasure, but an instrument in the advance of the higher social morality."

In the recent studies that have been made of the white slave trade in New York, it has been found that one of the chief recruiting grounds is the dance hall. More than ninety per cent of the dance halls in New York are over saloons, and the halls are usually furnished to parties without cost, as it is expected that the drinks will pay for their use. Where the girls come from homes which consist of two bedrooms and a kitchen, we cannot expect them to see their company there. Consequently, they meet them on the street corner, or the park bench, or at the dance hall. The dance hall is a bad institution because the drinking, the unregulated conduct, and the nature of the people who frequent it, subject the girl to bad influences. The playground that is lighted at night, so that the girls can go there for their exercises and recreation, and that is provided with a field house, so that gymnastics and other sports can be carried on indoors during the winter, offers the most successful alternative to the dance hall that has been tried anywhere. Within one year after West Park No. 2, a small playground on the West Side, was opened in Chicago, four dance halls within half a mile of that playground had been closed. The playground furnishes the social opportunity, exercise, and recreation, which the working

girl demands. Where the city makes no provision, almost the only opportunities which she has to gratify these natural desires are by going to the dance hall and the moving picture show, and both of these may be bad influences.

It does not matter, however, so very much that we keep the children away from temptations, if their minds are still dwelling upon them. The organized play of the playground, where the contest of to-day leads on to the contest of to-morrow, and the interest becomes intense, is one of the strongest influences to hold a boy's thoughts and to keep him from dwelling on morbid fancies. The unorganized play on the vacant lot does not have this power over the boy, because it has no future. The scrub game which is played does not lead to further games, and there is no reason why he should care particularly whether the team of which he happens to be a member this afternoon is successful or not.

Play Ideals. — Play represents the life of our ancestors, it is the effective side of childhood; but it has always been considered as a trivial thing by most adults. It has often seemed to parents quite beneath their consideration to teach the children how they should play. Consequently, play has been without ideals, except as it has observed them from life. The young tough is likely to be a strong athletic fellow. He has become a tough, very likely, on account of a surplus of motor ability that found no expression under city conditions. He can, very likely, run faster and strike harder and play many of the games better than most of the other boys. There is always great danger that he will become the model for the boys to copy. His excellence in the things in hand makes him the natural leader. ✓

The alternative to this young rowdy, in very many cases,

is the playground director. He is more proficient in all of the activities than any of the children. He becomes the natural leader and hero of the boys, if he is the right sort of a man. Children do not learn to write very well without a copy, and they do not learn conduct and sportsmanship any better. If the director cannot set the standards of play for the playground, he should be discharged. If he is able to do it, he becomes the real leader, the character-determining factor.

Play is the Most Perfect Democracy. — On the playground there is no rich or poor, high or low. You have “to deliver the goods” if you stay on the baseball team, though your father is a millionaire. There is always an almost complete equality between those who play together. We are accustomed to speak of the public school as the bulwark of our democracy, and such no doubt it is, but the public playground is far more democratic than the school.

In the playgrounds we have a voluntary democratic organization. The team elects its own captain and obeys his orders. It is necessary for the members to subordinate themselves and take the positions in the field, even if they do wish to pitch or catch. They must obey their captain.

In a large number of playgrounds, the democratic principle is carried further and we have an organization like a junior republic, so that the discipline and management is placed in the children's hands. The school is an absolute monarchy. It has in its organization, as usually found, no element that is democratic. It may be said here that directed play makes a monarchy out of the playground also and takes away its democratic values, and it is quite possible for organization to do this if it is along wrong lines or is excessive.

Obedience to Law. — It is said that we have laws in America only that we may break them. Our sense of liberty tends to run into license. We have no inherent reverence for laws of any kind, and many that are on our statute books we frankly disregard. There are certain laws that tend to produce rebellion in children. At the time of the great child welfare exhibition in New York a careful study was made of the police records among other things. It was found that out of seven hundred seventeen arrests of children during July of that year about one hundred were for playing baseball in the streets; one hundred seventy-seven were for playing cat on the streets; eighty were for jumping on street cars and nearly one hundred more for yelling in connection with the games they were playing. Four hundred fifty out of seven hundred seventeen arrests were for playing on the street. These children were doing perfectly normal things. They were doing the things that they must do if they were to grow up into vigorous men and women, and we were not really dealing with delinquent children at all, but we were dealing with a delinquent city, for the city that says it shall be against the law to play in the streets and does not furnish any other place where the children can play is conducting a school of crime. It makes it perfectly certain that they will grow up to disregard the law.

The laws that are most vital to children are not usually the laws of the city, but the laws of the games they are playing. In the play of the vacant lots they are accustomed to disregard these laws more or less, so that we find in the playgrounds that we have to teach the rules over again. Now the boy who has got into the habit of disregarding the rules of the games he is playing is getting the most fundamental training

in lawlessness that it is possible to give to a boy. I have always been accustomed to tell playground directors, " You must teach the children that the rules of basket ball are a part of the moral law "; for to all intents and purposes they are a part of the moral law. The child who has acquired a habit of dodging the rules of the games he plays, who makes fouls when he can do so unobserved, is getting just the sort of training which will make him a lawbreaker later. In the organized playground there is an umpire over the game, and the umpire insists on the rules. It is impossible to hold contests with other grounds unless the games are played according to rules, and the players can usually be brought to see in a short time that it is the part of sportsmanship to play in this way.

A few years ago the Sage foundation appropriated \$10,000 for a study of juvenile delinquency in the city of Chicago. The investigators took a great wall map of the city and put a pin in the map for every child that had been arrested in the previous eight years, and studied the relationship of these arrests to the different areas of the city. They found that there had been a decrease of twenty-eight per cent in the number of children arrested over an area of one half mile in radius about the South park playgrounds, and that there had been an increase in successful dealing with the children who had been placed on probation amounting to thirty-two per cent, showing that there had been a practical increase in successful dealing with delinquency amounting to about fifty per cent over this playground area. While there is no other city which has studied the conditions with equal care, there is a consensus of opinion, apparently, that the number of arrests of children increases about fifty per cent as soon as the schools close and the children are turned out upon the street, and that this falls

off again to about the normal amount as soon as the playgrounds are opened in any quarter.

A short time ago I spent a few days in the reformatory of a western state. There were in this reformatory two hundred forty boys on whom the state was spending \$60,000 a year. There was another reformatory for girls on whom nearly an equal amount was being spent. This was nearly enough to have supported playgrounds in all the cities from which these children came, and the playgrounds would, undoubtedly, have prevented half or more of all the delinquency which the reformatories were caring for at such expense.

Mr. Porter, in his report on the work in Buffalo, tells a story worth repeating. A small boy pointed to a portly policeman and said: "Der goes Old Battles, de cop. He won't arrest us any more, now as yous got a playground for us kids. Die playground is good for him as well as us."

"How's that?" asked the director.

"Why, can't you see, Old Battles used to be as thin as er match when he chased us kids; but now he's big as a barrel because he ain't got no work to do."

Team Play and Loyalty. — The most important moral training which play gives is in the development of loyalty.

Perhaps the greatest need of every country is that its citizens shall acquire a community sense, that they shall be able to think in terms larger than those of their own individuality, and be willing to work unselfishly for the city, the country, or the organization to which they belong. In other words, that they should acquire the spirit of loyalty. Professor Royce says that loyalty is the most fundamental virtue, more elementary even than love in the moral code. A person who thinks only of himself and his own welfare is a bad citizen. A

person who always conceives of himself as a member of a larger whole to which his loyalty is due is a good citizen. How does a boy get this training? There can be no question but the easiest way to develop in a boy this community sense, this feeling of loyalty to some organization larger than himself, is through team games. But the boy who is playing a game on a vacant lot does not acquire this spirit, for the reason that the scrub team has no permanent organization, no captain, and no future. It is team only in name. There is no reason why a boy should be loyal to a ball team of which he is chosen a member for the afternoon, and which is dissolved as soon as the game is over. When, on the other hand, the boy comes into the playground, and becomes a member of a permanent team, he takes part in a series of contests with other grounds. Just so far as these contests become important to the team, all of the members are practically compelled to acquire loyalty. A boy who still seeks to play the individual game, to make the long hit or throw to attract attention to himself in playing the game, soon finds that this sort of play does not win applause. The judgment on his play is a social judgment. It is estimated by its effect on the team. He must bat out in order that the man on third may run in. He must take the undesirable position, he must practice when he wants to go fishing, — in short, he must do many things that he does not wish to do in order that the team may be successful; and this spirit of loyalty, which the team creates, we call good citizenship as applied to the city, we call patriotism as applied to the country, and, if we agree with Royce, it is the most fundamental of all virtues.

I have often taken boys from the East Side of New York City to the parks to play baseball. The space had been

too limited for these boys to play games often, and nearly always I have found the same result, they were too selfish to play. Each wanted to be captain, or first baseman, or pitcher, and if he could not play where he wished, he would not play at all. If we look into the social status of a football or a baseball team, we find that it reproduces almost exactly the conditions of tribal life. If the tribal stage was the period when the impulse to coöperation and loyalty appeared, then, if we accept the recapitulation theory in its pedagogic aspects, we must conclude that the place to train the spirit of loyalty and helpfulness is in a team like this. I believe the facts bear out this conclusion.

Play and Friendliness. — All play is social in nature. We cannot play alone. In play, while there is rivalry, there is not that intense antagonistic rivalry that is found in business. At the first Play Congress in Chicago, Miss Hariette Heller, of Omaha, said, "The very best training that any girl can have for society comes through the social play of her childhood." She might as well have said it of boys as of girls, for practically all the social training of both boys and girls comes in this way.

By this I do not mean, of course, that the children learn in this way to say "Please" and "Thank you," or that they learn to talk, without saying anything, about an infinite number of subjects. Play does not teach society manners, which are the froth of politeness, too often a body without a soul. But play is always, I fancy, the most effective teacher of that kind of good comradeship which makes for political and social success. But this is not true of all kinds of play. The play of the street Arab, whose hand is against every one and against whom is every one's hand, does not beget confidence and

friendliness until he becomes a member of an unsocial gang. But under normal conditions of play, especially where team games are played, the games create a spirit of friendliness and good fellowship, which makes the ideal condition for the development of the social graces. ✓

We doubtless all know "only-children" who have been brought up apart. They come to the playground and stand outside the ring. They do not know how to fall in and become a part of the circle, and unless they overcome this attitude in these early days, it will be a handicap to them during all the rest of their lives. I have always been accustomed to judge of the success of a playground largely by the spirit of friendliness that existed among the children, because I have always found that, when there has been much play, a spirit of friendliness always grew up, and the presence of the friendliness always served as a pretty accurate index of the play. If the children, instead of playing together, have been merely using the apparatus, no such spirit will be found.

For a long time on the East Side of New York there was a faction between the Jews and the Italians, and nearly every afternoon they used to get out on the streets and chase each other up and down with sticks and stones and banana peelings or anything they could get hold of. This would go on till the police would come out and stop it. Finally, a playground was opened on the border line between the two sections. The children came into the playground, but the Jews stayed on the one side and the Italians on the other. They would not play together. Seeking to correct this state of affairs, we organized baseball teams with five Jews and four Italians on a team, but the teams would break up in the afternoon. The children would not play together. Then we began to organize

games, such as prisoner's base and pullaway, that required a large number of players on a side, and little by little the children fell in and played with us. After six weeks, they did not know whether they were Jews or Italians. They had entirely forgotten in the intimacy of play the racial prejudice that went before.

Friendship is a condition of play. You cannot have good play unless the children are friendly; and, conversely, play always tends to produce the friendship that is essential to itself. One reason that play has been so difficult in our cities has been that there has been so little friendship among the children. Everything that makes for disparity and antagonism works directly against play. Some of the disparities that are most noticeable and most injurious are difference of race. American children often will not play with "Dagos" or "Sheenys." Southern children will not play with "Niggers." Another point of antagonism is difference of religion. Protestant children oftentimes do not care to play with Roman Catholic children and *vice versa*. Around election times even a difference in politics will interfere very materially with the play of the children. Of course a distinction of classes, as of the rich and poor, is oftentimes an almost insuperable barrier. The child who is brought up in a good-sized family with a number of cousins in the neighborhood is very fortunate; for here, if things are right, are furnished the ideal conditions for play, that produce thoughtfulness, courtesy, and the finest fruits of the spirit. One reason why the street play is so unsatisfactory is because there is there such a mixture of races and creeds and politics; and there is such antagonism to *it* on the part of the public, that it is almost impossible for friendliness to grow up. The hand of every one is against the street child and his hand

is against every one. This makes him suspicious and cunning. He develops a whole series of unsocial traits for self-protection.

Most of the sociability and companionship of life comes in its leisure time and in connection with our recreation. We cannot play with people without being better friends on account of the play, if we really enter into the spirit of the game. Grover Cleveland used to say every man should retain through life some form of sport, because that was the only way a man could remain a good comrade. Almost any sort of an interesting game will serve to develop this feeling of fellowship; but the more interesting the game, the more effective it will be; and, in general, team games are more effective than individualistic games. Besides games, walking and camping trips have an especial value in this regard. Perhaps friends are the most valuable acquisition of life, and we cannot afford to neglect for either learning or money any means that will deepen and sweeten the relation. We have not thought in general of training in friendliness and companionableness as a part of an education. But is there anything that we are now giving in the school that means more for either success or happiness than the ability to make friends? There is coming in all over the world a growing sense of human brotherhood, of racial solidarity. All of our great social movements are but different expressions of this spirit. Almost anything that will help to train it will be in line with the requirements of the new century. For this reason, among others, camping and walking trips should be brought in, because there is nothing like a camp fire to draw a circle together, and develop a new sense of sympathy and fellowship.

The one duty that Christianity enjoins is love, which in common parlance means friendship. There can be no ques-

tion but play is one of the strongest influences in developing friendship. If the business of the churches is the developing of the spirit of love in the world, then the promotion of play is one of its most sacred duties. It is surely no small reproach to the church that through all the Christian centuries it has discovered so little of the pedagogy of love, and that it has left to the modern social movements the development of the spirit of brotherhood and democracy which its great founder everywhere taught. If we wish the world to be a warmer and more loving place, one of our first duties will be the promotion of play and sociability of the right sort among the children, and the extending of this childhood's necessity to advancing years, until infirmity or death make play impossible.

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CHAPTER V

PLAY IN THE GERMAN SCHOOLS

ALTHOUGH Germany is best known for its gymnastics and England for its athletics, still Germany, and not England, is the source of the present play movement in the United States and the world. We might wonder at this, if we did not consider that most of the educational movements of the last century have come from the same source. There are three notable periods in the development of German physical training. In the first period, which begins with Jahn, there was a strong love of sport and athletic games. In the second, gymnastics occupy the most of the field. In the third, there is essentially a return to the earlier point of view and a reëmphasis on the value of play.

Froebel. — The English have systematized athletics. It has been the peculiar province of the Germans to form into a system the plays of very young and middle-aged children. The first great modern writer on the educational value of play was Froebel. Froebel saw in the plays of children the perfect expression of the child soul. He perceived that all future developments are folded in play as the oak is in the acorn. The kindergarten games are dramatizations of the occupations of adults, for the most part, such as the child naturally carries on by himself. Froebel has systematized them and given them an accompaniment of song. They are true to the spirit and interest of childhood. They involve abundant exercise with deli-

cate social and moral training. Froebel, however, left his work incomplete. There is no apparent reason why he, perceiving, as he did, the value of play, should have stopped with the play of the little children. We cannot suppose that, if play is as he says "the germinal leaves of all the later life," that the child's need of it ceases by the time he is six years old. Logically, Froebel should have gone on to organize the games of the children through the university. Instead of this, he merely took the first step and stopped. The great work that is before the play movement at present is the completion of this work which Froebel began; in other words, to make the kindergarten include the university. In the German curriculum of games for the elementary school and the athletics in the English public schools and universities, we have a good beginning.

The Curriculum of Play. — In 1892 a royal commission was sent to England to examine into the sports of the English Public Schools and report on such games as were suitable for introduction into Germany. This commission made a favorable report, and through the assistance of the Emperor and the Minister of Education this was officially circulated throughout Germany. Special inducements were offered to English football and cricket teams to tour Germany and play exhibition games in the different cities, with the result that in the year 1909 there were twelve hundred ninety-five football teams in the different German cities and something over seven hundred cricket teams.

The German mind is very systematic, and a curriculum of play was soon arranged for the elementary schools. In the summer of 1902, I visited one of the Realschulen of Heidelberg at the time of their examinations. Two days were given to examinations in educational subjects and one day was given

to the examination in games. The games for the small children were such as cat and mouse. The older children played such games as three deep, circle ball, and hurl ball.

At the fifth Congress, which was held in Nuremberg in 1902, some eight thousand children from the schools of the city gave an exhibition of games. The exhibition was on a broad meadow near the city. The first event was by sixty-seven classes of boys. These boys were from the elementary schools, and played the whole graded system of games for boys with three or four extra singing games, introduced to give variety and sound to the spectacle. As no two classes played the same game, there were sixty-seven different games going on at the same time. The report says, "The boys played with the greatest enthusiasm and evident enjoyment." At the end of half an hour, a trumpet was blown and the boys filed off to give place to sixty-seven classes of girls who played in turn the games of the girls' curriculum. Many of these games were the same as those played by the boys, but also many were different. At the end of a half hour the girls in turn gave the higher schools a chance. A feature of the third period was that there were fourteen games of football going on at once.

The School Playgrounds. *The Elementary Schools.* — The play movement of Germany is primarily a school movement. The municipal playground as it is in America is very rare. There are many playgrounds in the parks, but these are nearly always used by the schools as schools under the direction of the teachers. The school movement is both the large movement and the significant one. As many of the schools are almost without grounds, it is difficult for the children to play there, and they must often go to a playground at some distance for

a play period, just as they might for a period of manual training. The masters go with them to see to the giving out and returning of the apparatus from the boxes placed on the grounds, to the proper allotment of space, and to the peaceful conduct of the games; but they do not, as a rule, play with the children. These playgrounds are definitely planned so that they have a separate place for each game. There is no apparatus such as swings, or seesaws, as a rule.

The Gymnasia. — Like the English system, German education is divided into primary and secondary, the one for the masses and the other for the classes: the *Volkschulen*, for the people; the gymnasia and universities, for the leaders of the people. But the gymnasia, which correspond in a general way with the public schools of England, are day schools, and the school hours and the hours of preparation are so long that there has been very little time for sport. The English public schools are mostly located in the country, where there is an abundance of room. The German gymnasia are nearly all centrally located in the great cities, so that the play problem for them is inherently difficult. Also, there has not been in Germany that parental encouragement of play, which the English parent has given to his son, whom he sends to Eton or Harrow quite as much to learn cricket or football as he does to learn Latin or Greek.

There has been less progress made in the gymnasia and universities than anywhere else, but many of the gymnasia now have tennis courts and some have football fields. There is a movement to provide fields, and to require a certain amount of play, but not much progress has yet been made.

The difference in the results of these two great systems of education is marked. There is a strong school spirit and in-

tense loyalty to the school at Rugby and Eton. This spirit *is largely lacking in a German gymnasium*. The English boy generally looks back to Eton or Rugby as a sort of Eden from which he has been driven by advancing years. The German boy seldom looks back upon his days at the gymnasium with pleasure. The English boy comes through his course with abounding health, the German boy often with shattered nerves. The English boy comes out with a good knowledge of men and an aptitude for affairs, but oftentimes without scholarly habits or methods. The German boy comes from the gymnasium with scholarly ways and methods, with a mind disciplined by severe intellectual toil and accustomed to it. Probably the German school is the most efficient school from a scholastic standpoint in the world. If we must choose between a school which is largely play for the sake of culture, or the school which is mostly study for the sake of learning, I suppose we should choose the German school instead of the English, but there does not seem to be any reason why both of these aims might not be realized in the same school.

Until recently there have been no contests between gymnasia, but for the last twenty years, taught first by the results of athletics in the English public schools and later aroused by the congresses on hygiene and tuberculosis, to the value of leading a life in the open air, the leaders have been working with might and main to make play more popular, and to introduce football and cricket. This movement has been largely successful in the introduction of football, but not so successful with cricket.

Girls' Schools. — Volume IX of Special Reports on Educational Subjects for Great Britain, 1904, says: "That an effort is now being made to introduce the system of outdoor games

into some girls' schools (corresponding to girls' high schools of England). The mistresses are being especially trained for the purpose, and certain afternoons are set apart, when the children meet for games, attendance being voluntary. . . . Many schools have acquired the use of grounds, where the children go on appointed afternoons."

The University. — The ideal of English secondary education is culture, the ideal of the German system is learning. As an outgrowth of this, the English school emphasizes the school life. It gives the man time that he may immerse himself in the school spirit and soak it in. The German school, on the other hand, makes its scholastic tasks so severe that there is little time to develop school life and atmosphere. The students go from university to university during their course, so there is little tendency to form loyalties to any particular university. But, as it seems to me, the chief reason for the absence of school loyalty is the complete absence of athletic teams that might represent the university. Dueling takes the place of athletics. I saw fifteen duels in one afternoon at Heidelberg, and I might have seen five more had I remained an hour longer. Seventy-five per cent of the students take fencing, while only seven per cent take part in any form of athletics. This dueling is an outgrowth of the German military ideal. Officially the universities are not supposed to know anything about it, but in reality they know all about it. There is a building in Heidelberg which is devoted to dueling. The contests are all with narrow swords which are kept sharp. Severe injuries seldom occur, but the countenances of the contestants are often cut to shreds. The eyes and throat are protected. Thrusting with the sword is prohibited. I was unable to see that there was much skill in the contest, and I

question if a man would be any better able to defend himself in a real encounter on account of such practice. The wounds are sewed up with heavy thread and are often drawn askew so as to make a broad scar. These scars are regarded as badges of honor, and are sought for as much as was ever court plaster at the French court or a Victoria cross in the English army.

The absence of athletic interests is a great loss to the non-studious part of the student body. In the English university the man who goes up to get its culture without its learning gets a liberal education out of the university life. The man who goes up to a German university for its life without its learning is likely to get nothing but debauchery. The German university is the best university in the world in which to work, but it is one of the worst in which to be idle.

Courses in Play for the Teachers. — When play was first introduced into the German schools, the teachers regarded it as an added burden. They had never been taught to play themselves, and they did not think that they should be required to organize the games of the children. In order to meet this situation the Central Committee began at once to organize courses and hold play institutes for the teachers. A normal course in play was introduced into the University of Berlin in 1894, and since that date, institutes have been held in increasing numbers throughout the empire. The institute usually lasts one week. The registration fee is four marks, but this entitles each teacher to the annual, *Das Jahrbuch für Volks- und Jugendspiel*, and various subsidiary publications on games, which would regularly cost about six marks. In these institutes, which are in charge of one or two persons, the morning of each day is usually given to the theory and the afternoon to the playing of games and the practice of athletics.

During the last few years normal courses in play have been introduced into the public normal schools, and many of the cities are holding one-day institutes at different times during the year, so there is not so great a demand as formerly for the one-week institutes conducted by the committee. It was stated in the *Jahrbuch* for 1912 that 60,000 teachers had taken the courses up to that time. In the international congress on physical education, which was held in Vienna in 1911, it was resolved that a normal course in play should be a part of the preparation of every teacher.

Time for Play. — People who know about the curriculum of German schools usually think it is impossible to put anything new into them, because they seem much overcrowded. They have found place for play in three ways. They have put organized games into the school recesses, into certain of the gymnastic periods, and a large number of schools have established a special play afternoon.

Since 1897 the Volksschulen have given three hours a week to physical training, and there has been a tendency to give more and more of this time to games. Exercises have been taken in the yard whenever possible. As to the frequency of this provision for play, in the Sixth Report on the Public Playgrounds and Open-air Play for the Children of Saxony Dr. von Schenkendorf says, "Among 3616 schools replying, 1958 had public play and gymnastic exercises combined, 1272 conducted play outside of gymnastic exercises, and 359 had as yet failed to arrange for games."

The "play afternoon" is not universal in Germany, but is developing rapidly, and the *Jahrbuch* for 1909 states that the number of these play afternoons doubled during the year. If a school has an adequate playground of its own, the chil-

dren will usually have a two-hour play period one afternoon a week there, but if the school does not have such a playground, the Superintendent of Parks assigns a playground to the school for one or two afternoons. If a child does not wish to play in most of these schools, he will have to go to the doctor and get the doctor's certificate, saying that he is physically disqualified, otherwise he will have to play whether he wishes to or not. There are some systems, however, where the attendance at the playground in the afternoon is voluntary. One of these playgrounds, in Berlin, which I visited, was three or four acres in extent. It was assigned to three schools to give each school two afternoons a week. There was a shelter at one end, and there were three teachers organizing games when I was there.

Walking Trips. — One of the interesting developments of German life which we might introduce with profit is the school journey. These journeys vary in length from walks which are taken on Saturday afternoons with the teacher to expeditions three or four weeks in length, which take the children across whole provinces, or even through the Alps in some of the longer trips. These journeys are generally taken on foot, and the school sometimes serves as a bank where the children save up their pennies during the year in preparation for them. They are very definitely planned to illustrate the work in history, geography, geology, and general nature study of the year. They are excellent both for the practical first-hand knowledge they give the children of the things they have been studying about, for the excellent physical exercise in the open air, and their great social opportunities. The Germans feel also that they create in the children a love for the Fatherland. The long trips are taken during the summer

vacations, but the shorter ones, oftentimes occupying two or three days, are taken during the school year. It is in these walking trips that the German boy comes to know Germany. He sees the places of interest and visits the parks, public buildings, the great historic castles, battle fields, and the homes of literary men; but no less he visits the factories and sees men at all kinds of work. He comes to know the common birds and flowers and trees. He sees the sunsets and the distant landscapes and learns to appreciate the beauties of nature. He acquires resourcefulness under all sorts of situations. He meets many new people. As he goes from city to city and town to town, it is customary to give athletic exhibitions and to hold contests with the children of the locality. Perhaps the best thing of all about these trips is that the children develop on them such a close attachment for their masters and for each other.

The children usually carry knapsacks, in which they have cooking utensils and certain changes of clothing. They buy bread at the stores and milk and potatoes of the farmers and prepare a considerable number of their meals at the roadside. They are often entertained by well-to-do citizens at night or sometimes they sleep on the hay in the barns, sometimes on the floor of the inns. Oftentimes they are entertained at the barracks of the soldiers, but during the last three or four years, in several provinces, they have been taking the desks out of certain classrooms and putting in cots. By this arrangement the children walk from schoolhouse to schoolhouse and stay all night there. They usually pay about five cents for their lodging.

The expense of these trips is borne in various ways. Sometimes the entire cost is paid by the parents, sometimes by

the city or the school, and sometimes by private gifts. Oftentimes a part of the expense is borne by the city, a part from some bequest, and a part by the children. The expense, however, is not great, sometimes no more than ten cents a day, and oftentimes not more than twenty-five. They are carried for half fare or less on the government railroads when they need to ride, and get special rates at the inns, if they need to stay there.

There were 65,000 children who went out from Berlin for walks of a week or more last summer. Walking parties are usually taken out once or twice a week from the playgrounds, and the children go for a half day or a day nearly every month from the schools. One meets these parties nearly everywhere, and is usually impressed with the fact that they are seeing the country, learning a large number of practical facts, and having a good time all at once. There are, at least, five national associations that are promoting walking, and there is a local association in nearly every town. Very many of the turnvereins take an annual walk of a week or more for the annual vacation of the members. Parents also often go with their children in the summer time, sometimes for a walk of two or three hundred miles. These walking trips date back to Turn-Vater John, who sometimes took his students out for a walk of as much as a month's duration.

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CHAPTER VI

PLAY IN THE ENGLISH SCHOOLS

THE development of play in the German schools has been largely a matter of promotion, but in England play has seemed to spring more spontaneously from the nature of the people. There are two conditions that have been especially favorable: the climate is such that one can play out doors all the year around with comfort; and there is a large leisured class who have an abundance of time for play. Under the circumstances, it is not surprising that for a generation or more play has been organized into the curriculum of the public schools.

But it must be remembered that the schools of the masses, which are known as council schools, are almost as distinct from the schools of the classes in England as are the colored schools from the white schools in the South, and that the conditions in these two systems of schools vary greatly.

Council Schools. — The council schools were of very tardy organization and have been neglected by the government, chiefly, perhaps, because none of the people who took part in politics sent their children to them; but there has been a great awakening in the last few years.

Physical training has never received the same attention that it has in the public schools; but all the girls and small boys in London are given instruction in calisthenics and folk dancing. These exercises include free movements and exer-

cise with dumb-bells, Indian clubs, and wands. All of the longer drills are always performed in the open air unless the weather is bad. In the crowded sections of London, many of the schools are provided with roof playgrounds, which are used mostly by the smaller children. The legal minimum space for a school yard is thirty square feet of playground to each pupil, but in practice there are nearly forty square feet in the newer schools. One school where I spent most of a day, and which is situated near the Bank of England, has nearly two acres of playground. These playgrounds are covered with gravel, cinders, or asphalt. They are open every evening until sundown, although there is no one in charge but the janitor. The boys often practice cricket in them with a soft ball after school.

One of the most interesting developments of some of the London schools is their system of out-of-town playgrounds. Many are not located near available park grounds, and the land near the school is too costly to be purchased. The result has been that some of the schools have purchased or rented playgrounds in the suburbs, and then made arrangements with the tram companies to carry the children out on half holidays for a cheap fare.

Swimming. — The ability to swim is an essential part of an Englishman's idea of education. There are public swimming baths in all the large cities of England, and swimming is general. There were, in 1903, forty-six public swimming baths in London. To these the children of the upper grades are taken during the spring and fall by their regular teachers.

Swimming is encouraged, and medals offered in nearly all the principal cities. Of its special effect one teacher says: "Teacher and pupil are drawn together in a way that hardly

any other sport can effect. I never feel so much the big brother of my boys as when I am in the water with them. It is a real new bond. Our school reports have several times noted the fact that swimming has improved the tone of the school."

School Football and Athletic Association. — By far the most interesting athletic feature in the council schools, however, is the Football and Athletic Association. This is an organization which was originally formed by the teachers of South London to promote interest in and practice of football. *Special Reports on Educational Subjects for Great Britain* says: "There is now scarcely a town of any size that does not possess an organization of its schools to promote football and cricket."

In many schools, the graduates are also organized into teams of old boys, and, in this way, they are kept in touch with the teachers and the schools in a way that is good for both.

These contests begin first between the various classes of the home school. Then the schools of the same district play off the championship of the district. From the best teams, participating in the district contests, a city team is selected to play against teams from other cities until there is practically a championship of England; though, of course, all cities are not represented.

In Manchester, Sheffield, Liverpool, and Leeds, the "Annual Sports" is the red-letter day of the year, and is eagerly looked forward to by the children and the parents. In some of the towns, the sports are held on a day in the midweek, and a special half holiday given for the purpose.

The report says further, "Boys do their work in school bet-

ter, and it is a singular fact that nearly all the boys who have won scholarships from the elementary schools are footballers." This is very similar to the Public Schools Athletic League organized by Dr. Gulick in New York in 1905.

The Evening Play Centers. — As it chanced, an article of mine on the "Vacation Schools and Playgrounds of New York City" appeared in *Harper's Magazine* in the spring of 1902, at the same time that Mrs. Humphry Ward was bringing out "Lady Rose's Daughter" in the same magazine. This led her to start, in connection with the Passmore Edwards Settlement of London, the first vacation school and playground in England. This soon developed into the Evening Play Centers in the council schools. There are now twenty-one of these centers. They are located in the poorest quarters of London and are intended for the poorest children. They are open from five-thirty to seven-thirty each afternoon. In an article which appeared in the *London Times*, February 20, 1914, Mrs. Ward says:

"Its main object is to save from the streets thousands of the poorest children who have practically no homes to go to between the hour when the schools close and seven or eight o'clock, when their parents come home from work. In each center we have a superintendent and a staff of helpers who direct the games and teach handwork, cobbling, drawing, drilling, dancing, and there are also rooms for the babies from three to five years old."

Schools for the Aristocracy. — The schools for the sons of gentlemen existed long before the schools for the people. They are the schools with which we in America are most familiar, thanks to Hughes and Corbin and Kipling. They are all expensive private boarding schools. Athletics are

compulsory in nearly all below the sixth form. Latin and Greek are the backbone of the course of study.

These schools are divided into three classes or grades. The first is known as the preparatory school, which takes the boys at eight or nine and keeps them until they are fourteen or fifteen. These schools are the most recently established; the children were formerly sent directly to the public schools, as we see in "Tom Brown." The next stage is the public school, which is a private academy of high school grade, such as Harrow, Eton, Rugby, and Westminster. They now take boys at fourteen or fifteen and keep them until they are eighteen or nineteen. The third stage is the university, of which Oxford and Cambridge are the prize examples.

The Preparatory School.—According to the statistics gathered in 1900 there were three hundred twenty preparatory schools in England. The first of these was founded in 1837 in the Isle of Wight, and sent most of its pupils to Dr. Arnold at Rugby. Nearly all of these three hundred twenty preparatory schools are situated in the country. The attendance is small, averaging perhaps fifty boys to a school. They are supplied with the best playgrounds of any schools in the world, unless it be a few private schools of a similar type in America. The rule is that the playgrounds must be large enough so that all the boys can play football or cricket at once. Scholastically, they prepare for the public schools and the Royal Navy. As the ability to play games is generally accounted a necessary part of a gentleman's education, it is not surprising that games are compulsory. However, it may surprise some of us to learn that the reason for this step which is most often given is "the moral value of games," especially football, which so

many of us think brutalizing. Another prominent defense is that they promote vigorous health. The reason that is least often given is that they give physical development. It seems a trifle at variance with our theories of play periods and levels, that organized games, such as football and cricket, should be made compulsory for boys of eight or nine years of age, but such is the case.

There is generally a gymnasium in connection with these schools in charge of an army sergeant. This does not mean that there is much gymnastics, however. It is used mostly for military drills, boxing, and dancing, and as a playhouse in rainy or inclement weather. One of the masters expresses his idea of the value of the gymnasium by saying, "Its chief use is as a sort of a monkey house for the boys to climb about in and swing on the ropes and rings." He says, "This is a necessary training in order to enable them to climb trees."

The regular boarding pupils of these schools, who are in the vast majority, spend about twelve hours a week or two hours each afternoon on games.

The head master of a school of fifty boys writes, "Compulsory games occupied the interval between dinner time and tea time throughout the year." Deducting the time that was necessary for the double change of dress, for our boys invariably wore flannels for all games, the duration of the interval amounted to about two hours in the summer term and somewhat less in winter. The responsibility for the management of the games rested with the field master who happened to be on duty for the day; others would lend their help to such an extent as their zeal or inclination moved them. He says further, "A person who did not take an interest in

games would not be a welcome member of a preparatory school staff."

The standard games, of course, are football and cricket. Football is played in the fall and winter and cricket in the spring and summer. It would seem quite impossible to an American parent that boys of eight or nine should be able to play football against boys of fourteen constantly, and even adults, without receiving at times serious injuries. Yet out of one hundred nineteen answers to questions on this point, sixty-seven schools say there is no risk of accident, fifty-one say there is an infinitesimal risk, and one school says a boy stands one chance in eight of getting hurt.

In football the boys are coached by their regular masters. Out of the one hundred fifteen schools which replied to questions as to how many afternoons a week the masters spent with the boys in the field, the average was four afternoons, though a very large number said the masters were there every afternoon. This is not direct compulsion, but I judge a master who absented himself would not be long in favor. The masters are often the regular captains of the teams. In cricket great skill is required, and very careful teaching is needed in order to make high-grade players. Consequently, nearly all schools employ at least one cricket professional. One of the masters, in discussing the situation, makes the following plea against setting the standard of skill too high. He says, "It is possible that a painful excellence may cost the game some of its light-hearted brightness and that its essential recreative virtues may be lost if it is converted into a business and a most absorbing one." This seems to me to strike to the heart of conditions in America at present and to be quite true of all games. It is supposed to be the distinguishing character-

istic of play that it is an activity that is carried on for the enjoyment of it and not for the result, but here we make winning the object of the game. I do not see myself but that it is as much an ulterior object as though the prize were a thousand dollars. It certainly has the same effect in making a business out of sport. An American schoolboy team usually will not play a team by which it is sure to be beaten. It does not seem to make much difference to English boys, provided they have a good game. For instance, Bedford Grammar School, which averages probably the finest Rugby football team in England, has played St. Paul's School, London, for twenty years, though the latter have not won for twelve years.

Not the less the annual fixture is always eagerly looked forward to by both sides.

The coaching of the masters seems to me the best feature in the whole school system. This common life in the field breeds a mutual respect and attachment, such as nothing else can give. The English system may be medieval in its ideals, but there is no other school which trains character as do these secondary schools. There are no other schools where the teacher is so much the companion, friend, priest, and father of his pupils. Hughes remarks in "Tom Brown" in substance: "No custom seems to me more foolish than that of having inferior masters to lead the games of the children. If I were a head master, I would let who might teach their lessons, but I would live with them in the halls and the playground."

Besides football and cricket, some schools have compulsory hockey as a variation; and others, lacrosse. About one third of the schools have golf, but this is not compulsory and is played when, for any reason, a boy is not in good condition for the regular games. About once a week or once a fortnight

there are picnics at some ruin or other point of interest, generally at such a distance that a long walk will be required. There are also trips into the country for specimens and bicycle excursions. There are occasional paper runs at hare and hounds.

About one third of the schools take exercise on rainy days. One head master says, "If exercise in the fresh air is a daily need, I know of no valid excuse for omitting to insist upon it in all weather."

"We had a regular two-mile course for rainy day runs. After changing into their flannels, the boys started in a pre-arranged order, the weaker getting a few minutes' start of the stronger. At least two of us masters accompanied them, one in the van to prevent the procession from degenerating into a race, and one in the rear to insure the requisite minimum of pace, namely, a jog trot, varied by intervals of brisk walking. In about 25 minutes all were home again."

About half of the schools have swimming baths, and nearly all the boys learn how to swim.

There is usually five minutes for play between the recitations. As the classes seldom have more than eight or ten pupils, this does not involve great disorder.

The teachers in the public schools testify that there has been a great improvement since the boys came to them from the preparatory schools instead of from the nurseries, as they did formerly. They say the boys are better trained scholastically and physically, and best of all they have learned to love their masters in the preparatory school, and they bring the new spirit of friendliness with them to the public school. If we accept this definition of education which is given by one of the masters in a public school, it is certain that the preparatory school will rank high.

“ Let them estimate the influence of a boy’s school life by the openness of his countenance, the freshness of his manners, the courtesy, kindness, and honesty of his conduct; by the clearness of his complexion, and the development of his chest and arms; by his readiness in resource, by the books and parts of a newspaper which he reads, and by the subjects on which he cares to talk. Let games by all means be prominent among such subjects. Talk about games is a great safeguard to English boys. What do French boys talk about? ”

The one sad thing about the preparatory school is that it takes a boy of nine or ten years away from his parents and keeps him away for nine or ten months a year.

The Public Schools. — The next English secondary school is the public school. Through “ Tom Brown’s School Days ” and other similar books, the public is much better informed about these than it is of any other English schools. Of course it must be remembered from the outset that these are not public schools in the American sense. They are really private academies which charge a very high tuition. We used always to hear of the nine great Public Schools, which are Eton, Harrow, Shrewsbury, Rugby, Sherborne, Winchester, and the three London schools, Westminster, St. Paul’s, and Charterhouse, but there are many more than nine now. These schools in athletic lines continue the work of the preparatory schools. So far as I know, football and cricket are compulsory below the sixth form in all, but the enforcement of practice is usually left to the large boys of the sixth form, who do not hesitate even to cane the smaller boys for neglecting their hours of play. Public sentiment, general custom, and the interest of the boys are, however,

the main force in securing compliance with these rules. There is no fixed requirement for all schools as to the amount of exercise a boy must take. It differs even between the different houses of the same school, as do also the punishments inflicted for failure to practice.

Strange as it may seem, considering their fame and the wealth of the families represented, the playgrounds of the public schools are not in quite as good condition as are many of those of the preparatory schools. By this it must not be understood that these playgrounds are small or ill kept as judged by the American standard. There is no American university or public high school with which I am acquainted that has a playground at all comparable to those of most of the public schools. Westminster, though located next to the Abbey and just across the street from the Houses of Parliament, has a playground of ten or twelve acres which must be worth nearly as many millions of dollars. It is about half a mile from the school.

The new playground at Eton seemed to me to contain fully two hundred acres. They have a football field large enough so all of their thousand boys can play at once. They have forty-two acres of cricket fields so that twenty matches requiring nearly five hundred boys may be played at once.

Besides football and cricket and rowing there is much practice of fives and raquettes. There are fifty fives courts at Eton, each provided with a high brick wall and partitions so that two hundred boys can play every afternoon. There are paper chases three times a week which take about one hundred fifty boys. There is swimming in the Thames and an officers' "training corps" of over five hundred.

There has been a great increase of interest in athletic games

in the preparatory and public schools in recent years, and the wave does not seem to have yet reached its height. Every one plays, the interest is moderate but sustained, the masters get a strong grip on the boys in football and cricket.

The public schools are splendid schools for the training of men, but the training does not come largely from the classroom. To put their course of Latin, Greek, and mathematics into an American city high school would make one of the worst schools in existence. It is the life of the school that counts, the association with other boys, the obedience to upper classmen, and the control over lower classmen, the life of the dormitories and boarding halls, the 'debating societies, the intimate association with the masters, and the games on the campus. The course of study does not matter much; they might teach Choctaw or Hottentot instead of Greek and Latin, and they would still be fine schools. These boys learn to obey and to command; so far as they aspire to fill any position in life other than that of the sons of their fathers, they fill places of high efficiency. The English games are better adapted for recreation and leisure moments than any other national games. The American game of football is scarcely played at all outside of high schools and colleges. Baseball is little played by men who have reached the age of thirty, but in England, football is played by all classes and largely by people who are not in school at all. Cricket is much more vigorous than golf and is played until a man is fifty or sixty.

High Schools for Girls. — The schools for girls that correspond to the Public Schools for boys are known as Girls' High Schools. These are of comparatively recent origin, and little has been said about them. However, any one who has

traveled much in England has probably seen several. These schools are true to English traditions. They are private boarding schools for the daughters of gentlemen. In most of them athletics are, if not compulsory, at least very strongly encouraged.

Miss Lawrence, the head mistress of the Rodean school for girls at Brighton, in writing on this subject in *Special Reports for Great Britain*, says that in her school they required the girls to exercise three hours in the open air in summer and two hours in winter every day. She says further: "There are now very few girls' schools of any pretensions, which do not make some effort in the same direction. Even in the last two years, the advance has been very great." Again, "Physical training for women is receiving far more attention everywhere now than formerly."

A girls' school cannot well require the girls to play football. They usually have hockey instead. In the spring, about one third of the schools have compulsory cricket and in the remainder, the girls play tennis and golf. There is also a varied program of walks and runs. Some of the schools require the girls to walk and run a mile every morning before beginning their work.

Of her own school Miss Lawrence says: "Our school of about 100 girls has secured the use of a playground close at hand of 9 to 10 acres. It contains three hockey grounds, three cricket pitches, a leveled place for practicing nets, and four lawn-tennis courts. Thus both in summer and in winter the grounds are large enough to accommodate the whole school at the same time. This fact is of importance, and it is here that many girls' schools fail."

Of hockey she says: "The time taken for a game is one

hour and ten minutes. It is such hard exercise that usually this is enough for the whole day in the winter months. We choose the most favorable time of the day from 2.20 to 3.30 P.M., which gives three quarters of an hour after the mid-day meal and half an hour before beginning work again and is the picked time of the day for being in the open air in winter. As a rule there is 'supplementary training' or a short walk in the morning between breakfast and work. The girls wear a special dress for playing; viz. a sailor blouse and a blue serge skirt worn over knickerbockers and made sufficiently short and full so as not to impede running."

Any one who looks at all carefully into the training that is given in these schools must see at once that the ideal is not learning. They are not trying primarily to make these boys and girls scholars. They are trying to make them strong, healthy men and women, first of all, with good common sense and a resourcefulness that will enable them to meet the difficulties of life as they arise. They scarcely expect to be able to teach them in school all that they will need to know for the rest of their lives. One head mistress says: "It is always impressed upon the girls by word and practice that fresh air and exercise should take the first place, sleep the second, and work the third." In a number of schools there is a list containing the names of the girls and a place for a record of the amount of exercise taken each day. The girls make their own entries. One of the mistresses examines this list at stated intervals, and if any girl is found to be taking less than two hours of exercise a day, some arrangement is made to lessen her studies or arrange some other way for her to get more exercise.

There are two main purposes in the game, health and the

training of character. On this point Miss Lawrence says: "But games have another and more important function (than exercise), to fill in the training of character, and under this aspect their importance in school life is second to no other agency we can devise for the children's benefit. All games, whatsoever their nature, require observance of their rules if they are played at all. Hence any game will give this training to its players, a training in obedience to law and in acting together for a common end." "In the moral influence lies their greatest value for girls. Games provide precisely the element in girls' education which has hitherto been lacking."

It is a pleasure to consider these schools where the girls get plenty of exercise, are not overworked, and have time to be girls ere they must be women. Their associations with their teachers in excursions and on the playground make the school like a big family.

As to how far the women at Oxford and Cambridge take part in athletic games, I have not been able to learn. I presume they still feel too strange there to do anything to bring them into much prominence.

Oxford and Cambridge. — Of course games are not compulsory at the universities. But play has been wrought into habit for so many years that it does not need to be made compulsory. Probably more than ninety per cent of the men are engaged in some athletic pursuit every afternoon. The same games are prominent, — football, cricket, and rowing.

I doubt if the English university is a good place in which to become a scholar in the modern sense, but it is the best university in the world to be idle in. There is more culture floating about in the air than there is in any other university.

The fellow who does not care for study and takes little interest in lectures still gets a good deal of culture out of the college life and games. While this is true to some extent in the American university also, the American idler probably gets into more than enough mischief from his idleness to compensate for all the culture he gets from his college life.

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CHAPTER VII

THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS OF AMERICAN CITIES

Necessity for School Playgrounds. —“ Fifty dollars fine for any one trespassing on this yard after school hours.” The foregoing sign was on the side of a school building in a middle-sized city of southern Arkansas, but the sign is not unique in that locality, and it represents an attitude of mind that has been very nearly universal. The school yard has been one of the least utilized of our educational resources. Surfaced with a view to his convenience and used mostly in accordance with his desires, it has practically belonged to the janitor. I do not know that there are any cases where he has used it to raise potatoes and the family vegetables, but he might nearly as well have done so for any advantage that has come to the school or the children. Often the pupils have not been allowed to come to school until fifteen or twenty minutes before nine and have been required to leave the yard immediately after dismissal. The gates, if there were any, have been closed and locked during the summer time. I was told a short time ago by the son of a United States senator that when he was a boy, he and four other boys were arrested for playing in the school yard after school. They were taken to the station house and locked up until their parents came for them. Under the circumstances there is little wonder that our school yards have been generally inadequate in size and often atrocious in condition.

In the past ten years the play movement has burst upon us and has brought with it an illumination as to the educational value of play. The old-time school yard, with its limited space and its restrictive traditions, is entirely unsuited to the new uses demanded by the new ideals, and there is going on everywhere a reconstruction of theory and practice to meet the new requirements. As in all reconstruction periods, however, the facilities and needs are out of harmony.

The new activities of the school require a larger yard, which is in condition to be used, with a certain amount of equipment for play and some one in charge. The yard is nearly as important as the classroom in the conduct of the modern school, for it must furnish a place for gardening, for open-air classes, for organized play and physical training both during the school day and after school, on Saturdays, and during the summer vacation. These new uses are creating a new condition, which warrants a far greater expenditure and care than the old-time yard ever received.

It is unfortunate that any school needs to be built in the city, because it is often impossible to get enough land for baseball, football, and the other games that the children should play. The past ten years, however, have seen the invention or introduction of several new games, such as volley ball, basket ball, indoor baseball, and tether ball, which are more economical of space than any games that we have formerly had and which help to relieve the almost impossible condition of a few years ago. It is possible now on a block of ground, if the block is of fair size and the school is not too large, to have a great deal of play that is worth while.

Size of the School Yard. — Our schools have had very inadequate yards in the past, and many of them are so hemmed in

by surrounding buildings that the yards can be enlarged only by buying highly expensive property. Nevertheless, there is a strong sentiment all over the country for larger grounds, and yards are being enlarged in many cities wherever there is an opportunity to do so at prices that are not prohibitive. Cities are often paying as much as \$10,000 per acre for such land. The movement is noticeable also in the country districts, but country communities are very conservative. Grounds can usually be purchased for country schools at the rate of \$100 per acre or less, but it is doubtful if one per cent of them have playgrounds that are an acre in extent.

A city high school requires at least six acres of ground in order to carry on the games that its students should play, because nearly all of these games demand a considerable area, and the growing conception is that every student, not a few athletic specialists, should take part. The girls need a field separate from the boys' field and every encouragement to play. High schools are probably getting two or three times as much ground as they did ten years ago, but it is practically impossible in most cases to buy six acres of ground in the central portion of a well-built-up city. This problem can be dealt with only in three ways, so far as the existing schools are concerned: First, by replacing the space-requiring games, such as baseball and football, by space-economizing games, such as indoor baseball, volley ball, and basket ball; second, by using the school grounds at different times for different classes all through the school day; or third, by purchasing a good-sized field at some distance from the school.

Various standards have been proposed for the city elementary school. The board of education of England requires thirty square feet of playground for each child. A year ago

the state of Washington passed a bill requiring one hundred square feet, but this was vetoed by the governor. In a good many of the old schools of New York there is not room enough in the external playground for half of the children to stand in the closest possible order. Where the land on which a school building is erected costs two or three hundred thousand dollars it is not to be expected that much more ground will be secured than the bare needs of light and fire protection demand. But for most of the new schools, in the smaller cities at least, there is at present a workable standard ; namely, one block for each school. This is quite generally adopted in the Middle West and the South at present. In the city of Little Rock, Ark., there is not a school for white children that has not a full block to itself. There are not more than one or two schools that have not a full block in Pueblo, Colo. There are sixteen school grounds of more than one acre in Dallas, Tex., and the last five grounds secured in Houston contain from three to eight acres each. In San Angelo, Tex., every school but one has two blocks at least, and two have about ten acres of playspace. The first school built in Gary, Ind., had two acres of playground, the second had four, the third eleven, and a lot recently purchased for its fourth school contains twenty acres. Since the original purchase, the park board has bought an additional five acres adjoining the Emerson School and ten acres next to the Froebel school, and these areas have been practically added to the school grounds, thus making in all nine acres for the Emerson and twenty-one acres for the Froebel. This is an ideal that cannot be followed everywhere, but wherever it is possible thus to secure a neighborhood park adjoining the school, it should be done. The school is the one public institution that is in every community, and it makes the best

possible location for all the public utilities, because in this way they are furnished for all and not merely for a few, as is likely to be the case where the parks are on the edge of the city. A block ought to be the minimum size of the school yard. Every community has a right to some sort of a park or breathing space. To put one or even two more blocks at each school as a park will not be an excessive amount. This concentration of public utilities around the school cannot fail to emphasize and augment the value of the school in the community. It seems likely that new schools will sooner or later adopt the block standard, and that the yards of many of the older schools will be enlarged to conform to it. Two years ago the city of Houston, Tex., secured a bond issue of \$500,000 for enlarging the yards of several of its old schools. The city of Galveston has just voted a bond issue of \$100,000 for the same purpose. There are many other cities that should do this at once, and an increasing number of cities may be expected to do so.

The blocks of many cities are two acres or less in size, while those in others, as in Salt Lake City, for instance, may be as much as ten acres in size. It can be said in general that a block of two acres or less puts all play at a disadvantage. The lots are so short that the back yards are very small, and there is no space for the small children to play. Such blocks are scarcely large enough for baseball when they are vacant, and they are not large enough for school playgrounds even when the school has an entire block. Schools vary from the four-room school to the one hundred-room city school. The problems of organizing the play for a school with from twenty-five to fifty rooms is much simpler than it is for a smaller school, because such a school can use its space more economically

and does not need so large an area per pupil. But it is obvious that if the school is large and the block is small, there may not be enough room for the children on a single block ; but the attendance at the yard of the smaller school during out-of-school time may not warrant paid supervision, while there are almost sure to be enough children at the larger school to warrant it. It is, however, less expensive to provide two blocks for a twenty-five room school than it is to provide one block for an eight-room school, and it is probable that the two blocks would make better provision for the play of twelve hundred children than one block would for the play of four hundred children.

It is often difficult, and sometimes impossible, under existing conditions to secure a full block of ground. There are few entire blocks within the city without buildings, but sites should be selected ahead as far as possible, anticipating the city's growth, and no new addition should be allowed to come into the city without setting aside a block for a school. Owners generally ask more than the land is worth for school sites, and it is often difficult for the school board to get enough money to purchase a block. They often hold that they have no right to condemn land for a playground, and frequently it can be secured in no other way. In most cases all that school boards really need is a modern interpretation of the school laws. They are usually given the right "to condemn land for school purposes," and the organization of play has become nearly as much a "school purpose" as arithmetic. In some cases it may be necessary to have the school laws changed, but that will not usually be difficult in the light of present interest in play. It surely is possible in most places to get land enough to carry on the activities of a modern school.

In hilly cities school sites are often selected that are very uneven. Such sites are usually cheaper in the beginning, but are nearly always dearer in the end than sites that are nearly level. A rounded hill offers a conspicuous position for a school building. But it is much less suitable for the location of a school than a store. No merchant would select such a site, because he knows that his customers will not climb the hill to buy of him. It is just as great an effort to climb a hill to go to school as it is to buy a stick of candy. After you once reach the store you can make your purchases just as well on the top of the hill as anywhere else. But the hilltop is nearly useless as a playground when you get there, as there are few games that can be played on a hillside. A hillside is more appropriate for a private house than a school. The house does not require a large yard, and not much terracing is needed to make it nearly level. But for a usable school playground the whole block has to be put into one or two terraces, as nearly level as may be. The grading will probably cost as much or more than the site. A terrace always tends to gully out and is a source of constant expense. The terraces should be sodded or walled at once or covered with honeysuckle or some similar vine. The honeysuckle will add greatly to the beauty of the bank, and it will hold it like a stone wall. The New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad is covering its cuts through Rhode Island and Connecticut with rambler roses, and it may be that these would be serviceable for school terraces in some localities. If it be found that the school occupies a site that cannot be leveled without a prohibitive expense, the site should be given up.

Location of the School Building. — When an appropriate piece of land has been secured and leveled, the next step should

be the location of the building upon it. When a city hall or a courthouse is to be built, it has become the custom to place it in the center of a large block, which is treated as a park, after the fashion of the English country residence. This park gives the space needed for the architectural features of the building. There is no conflict in the two uses. The central location is justified by the fact that this is a city building that all are to see, and its architecture is an asset to the city. When we consider the location of a school building, however, the decisive question should be the purpose to be served. If the school is erected to please the passer-by, then the architect should be allowed to place it with a view to securing architectural effects and incidentally advertising himself. The building should be surrounded with grass, and the children should not be allowed to play upon it. If, on the other hand, the school is intended for the education and welfare of the children, the building should not be located in the center of their playground. The architecture has little, if any, effect upon them, while play is fundamental. If the building is placed in the center, and the children are allowed to play on all sides of it, the grass is soon killed off, the ground becomes bare and dusty, and the location is the worst possible. It may be said, too, of most of the buildings so located that they have few architectural features to exhibit, and a vista only serves to set off their ugliness. But even if all the ground is used, and the grass is not respected, it is impossible in most cases to have play that is vigorous and worth while when the school building is placed in the center of the site, because this usually leaves only a fringe of ground that is not wide enough anywhere for ball games. Instead of having the windows on one side to protect, the windows on all sides have to be pro-

tected. If the school ground is to be used, it is better for the architectural effect as well as for purposes of play to locate the building at one end of the block, within fifteen or twenty feet of the sidewalk. This space in front of the building can be parked, laid out to flower beds or ornamental shrubbery, protected with a low hedge or a fence covered with vines, and kept intact for architectural effect.

Vines. — Unless the climate is rainy and cold, it will be an advantage to plant vines over the school building. Vines make the building cooler in the warm parts of the year, and the touch of green that they add is generally welcome. Wisteria will make it a great flower garden in spring. The ivies will furnish a glow of grateful color in the fall. Where a strip of land three or four feet wide about the building is prepared for vines and flowers, it often adds very greatly to the appearance of the school and to its comforts during the warmer months.

The Surfacing of School Grounds. — The school yards of many of our cities are a disgrace to the systems to which they belong. I believe that much less than fifty per cent of them are in condition to use. Covered with brickbats and piles of ashes, gullied out by the rains, with the roots of trees projecting in places, they furnish an almost impossible surface over which to run. Not more than one quarter as large as it should be in most cases, the space should be utilized to the fullest extent. But in actual fact not more than twenty-five per cent of play efficiency can be secured from many yards on account of their condition. There is many a school yard that has cost \$10,000 or more to purchase that has received less than \$100 afterwards to make it available. The school trustees apparently finish the school building and forget all about the

playground, leaving the dirt taken from the cellar unlevelled and the ground full of holes and hummocks. It seems almost incredible that this should be so frequently true, as observation shows it to be. Yet even if it does cost \$1000 to grade and surface a \$10,000 yard, it surely is not wisdom to throw away the \$10,000 for the lack of the \$1000. In many cases all that is needed is to dismiss the school early one afternoon and set the children with rakes and hoes to filling in gullies, raking up cinders and bricks, digging up projecting stones, and cutting off roots. Probably half the school yards of the country could be improved fifty per cent by this simple expedient.

As in the other features, it is easy to see that the interests of play have been disregarded also in surfacing school yards. In the play of men three surfaces have been approved: grass for baseball, football, and games requiring a large space; a sandy loam or sand-covered clay for tennis courts; and cinders for running tracks. Where the school playground has been surfaced at all, it has generally been with brick, cement, gravel, or broken stone. The requirements of the case are a surface that is smooth; that does not get muddy after rains or dusty in dry weather; that is springy beneath the feet and soft to fall upon; that does not get overhot in summer or slippery in winter; that does not wear out the play apparatus and the clothes of the children unduly; and, more than all, that does not wear out their nervous systems from its shocks and bruises. It is not easy to find a surface which meets all these requirements. Probably we shall have to manufacture a surface for the playground as we do for the street before we shall get one that is entirely satisfactory.

Grass. — Wherever a school can have grass on the yard and have play at the same time, grass is a good surface, but

this is usually possible only in country schools, where there is a large yard and a small number of children. In the South I have seen Bermuda grass that had a good start stand the intensive play of a city school. Perhaps its wider use will be a solution of the problem for the smaller cities of the South, but in most cases play and grass are antagonistic, and the school must choose between them. A school that chooses grass for decorative purposes instead of play might with equal wisdom choose a wall pattern in place of a blackboard for its classrooms.

Brick. — Not a few of the school yards in our great cities are surfaced with brick. I suppose that this surfacing must have been chosen by the janitor. It is an admirable yard for his purposes. It does not get muddy after rains or "track" into the school building. It is so hard to run over that the children prefer the street, thus causing the janitor the least possible amount of annoyance. At its best, brick is hard and unyielding, with shocks upon the nervous system at every step or jump. To fall upon it means a bad bruise on the knee and often a hole through the trousers. Most of the bricked yards that I have known have been more or less uneven, or contained soft bricks, where the water would stand after rains. In frosty weather the brick holds the frost, which makes it a very difficult surface to run or walk over. If the members of any school board now providing brick for school yards would go out and play one game of indoor baseball upon it, they would take it out the next day if possible. No company of men ever has or ever would consent to play on a brick playground. Brick is better adapted to tennis than it is to most of the games that the children play, but I have not heard of any bricked tennis courts furnished by the tennis clubs.

Cement. — Cement is better than brick. It is not so slippery or uneven, and it is easier to run over. In very large schools with very small yards, like those of New York City, cement or asphalt may be the only really practical surface now available, but nearly the same objections apply to cement as to brick.

Gravel and Broken Stone. — Both gravel and broken stone, especially the former, have been much used in surfacing school yards and are generally unsuitable, not so much from the necessity of the case as from the materials selected. Any one who has attempted to run over a heap of macadam or a surface covered with loose pebbles knows how difficult it is. The loose stones turn the ankle and cause constant slight sprains that weary the runner. To fall upon these sharpened pebbles means a serious bruise. For the children all these conditions are ten times worse, because so many of them go barefoot in the spring and summer, and pebbles mean constant bruises on the feet and toes. A yard of this kind will wear out a pair of shoes in a few weeks; baseballs and volley balls will get ragged with a day's use. The yard probably destroys enough clothing and apparatus every year to pay for surfacing it properly. On a school yard there should be no gravel nor broken stone larger than a small pea or, better, a Number four shot. The small, round gravel that is used in the Chicago playgrounds, known as torpedo gravel, makes a fairly satisfactory surface for play. The dust macadam, such as is used for the finest top dressing of drives and tennis courts, also makes a satisfactory surface. The torpedo gravel costs about \$1.50 per cubic yard, and one yard will cover about one hundred square yards of surface. It may be obtained of building contractors. The broken stone will be found to be hard to

run over, to wear out clothes and play apparatus rapidly, and to be generally unsuitable for play, but the objection that school boards are likely to make to it is that for some reason it tracks into the schoolhouse. If this macadam is covered with one or two inches of loam or sand, it furnishes excellent underdrainage, and the result is a very good play surface.

Cinders. — Coarse cinders, such as are often used on school grounds, will use up a baseball in an afternoon. They also cut the shoes and the clothing if a person falls. Cinders that are well ground and rolled and leveled make a satisfactory surface over which to run, but not a very comfortable surface upon which to fall. They have been used in the past almost altogether in making running tracks. Many of the London board schools and very many of our own city schools are surfaced with cinders. At the best, cinders are hot in summer and unattractive in appearance, though fine cinders make a fairly good surface.

Satisfactory Surfacing. — Thus far our consideration of surfacing has been mainly a matter of elimination. Some surfaces are more unsatisfactory than others, but there is no surface that is wholly satisfactory. However, there are better surfaces than are generally used. Mr. Leland recommends a mixture of clay loam and cinders as satisfactory. On the whole a sandy loam that is well underdrained makes a fairly satisfactory surface also. The most satisfactory surface, however, will be one where the soil is removed to a considerable depth, and this subsurface is graded for drainage, and the ground is again filled in with cinders or broken stone or both to its original level. There should be a fine top dressing of sand, fine gravel, or broken stone for the running surface.

Keeping School Yards in Condition. — In the past the school yard has been expected to keep itself in condition. It has been no one's duty to look after it. It may be taken for granted that it will not do this. There are not many enterprises that can be launched and left to run themselves. Every school yard with anything but a grass or brick or cement surface ought to be leveled and rolled down at least once a year. Often this can be done by the children themselves. Most grounds need much more care than this, but an overhauling once a year is an absolutely minimum requirement. Generally the school yard needs to be sprinkled at certain times to keep down the dust. In California, it is not unusual to use a heavy asphaltum oil and then spread sand on top, as in putting Tarvia on a road. In Philadelphia glutrin is used on the school playgrounds. This is a by-product of paper making and is said to be "all of the spruce tree but the fiber," and greatly to improve the surface for play purposes.

Mr. W. D. Champlin says of the use of glutrin in Philadelphia :

"Glutrin is a thick, adhesive liquor, and in color generally appears not unlike molasses. It is very soluble in water and therefore by proper dilution or by the after effect of rain on treated surfaces can be caused to penetrate very thoroughly and evenly into the ground over which it has been sprinkled. On drying it acts like a powerful adhesive. . . . It will not harm anything that would not be spoiled by plain water.

The cost per gallon? In quantities of less than a carload the material is sold at fifteen cents per gallon of ten and one half pounds. In carload lots the price is fourteen cents. The cost of spreading is approximately one cent per square yard.

As a rule, the amount of glutrin required for the first treat-

ment of a playground will vary from five tenths to six tenths of a gallon per square yard, and the mixture, as a rule, should be two parts of water to one part of glutrin. On succeeding treatments the amount of glutrin required will, as a rule, be from two tenths to three tenths of a gallon per square yard, and about three parts of water to one part of glutrin should be used.

For underdrainage the entire plot should be graded to a subgrade of ten inches. This surface so made is to be carefully, though not accurately, leveled, and is then to be compacted by rolling with a steam roller of not less than five tons in weight. All soil or waste material resulting from this grading should be taken away and disposed of. Then spread over this surface sufficient hard-coal cinders so that after rolling with a steam roller of not less than five tons in weight there will be a thickness of five inches. The cinders must be thoroughly wet before and during rolling. The rolling may be done in one layer. Then place on top of the cinders a sufficient depth of stone screenings, so that after wet rolling with a steam roller of not less than five tons in weight and bringing the surface to the grades given by the district surveyor, there will be a thickness of not less than five inches of stone screenings.

After this surface has been sufficiently and properly rolled the entire surface must be sprinkled with a mixture of glutrin and water until one half gallon of glutrin has been absorbed by each square yard of the surface, the proportion of mixture to be 2 parts water to 1 part glutrin."

Fencing. — There is no uniform practice in regard to fencing school yards. In the eastern sections of this country they are generally fenced; in the middle and southern sections they generally are not. There has been a tendency during

the past few years to remove fences around parks and public buildings. Houses and house lots are usually unfenced. This is one expression of the socialistic tendency of our times. *We are moving away from the cloister and its exclusiveness.* Undoubtedly the removal of fences from most of the large public parks has been an advantage. There never was any reason for fencing them. The same may be said of the fences in front of houses. *The strip of parking and grass is often* more attractive than the strip broken by fences, as was formerly the case. It is hard to see that the fence ever served any purpose except exclusiveness, and the question in this regard is naturally one of individual preference. However, the tendency everywhere is toward fencing playgrounds and fencing parks used as playgrounds. Sherman Park, Chicago, which is both a park and a playground and contains sixty acres, is fenced, but Washington and Jackson Parks are not. The fence is there in order that the park may be closed at a certain time at night, and the public kept out after that hour.

There are certain advantages in having the school yard unfenced: the play space is considerably increased, as the ground is used to the sidewalk, and frequently the sidewalk and neighboring street itself become a part of the school playground at recess and noon intermissions. Some school yards even in small cities are so small that there is literally not room for the children upon them. If they were fenced, there not only could be no play on the school premises, but often the children could not be crowded inside. The fence not only limits the size of the school ground to a space several feet inside the sidewalk, but the fence space and the land next to it are also unavailable for play. In the game of ball

the batting of the ball over the fence requires a long detour and interferes with the rapidity of the game.

These disadvantages of the fence seem serious, and they are serious for some schools with inadequate yards, but the disadvantages of the unfenced yard are yet more serious. If the school ground is not fenced, the children use the sidewalk and the street for their playground, but the sidewalk and streets were not intended for this purpose. The school, having failed to make provision for the children on its own premises, is plainly trespassing on the rights of the community. No school board has a right to build a school without providing on the school premises a place for the children. If the grounds that have been secured are not sufficient, they should either be enlarged or abandoned. Street play is becoming increasingly dangerous because of the rapidly increasing number and speed of automobiles. Children who are playing in groups are always heedless, and the child who dashes from the school yard in a game of tag is more likely to run into danger than the child who is really playing in the street. There are occasional mad dogs and runaway horses. If the children are in a fenced yard, they are safe, while there is always danger otherwise. However, the urgent reasons for fencing the school yard are more fundamental. It is becoming the custom to put into them a considerable apparatus and to maintain them as playgrounds during the summer. It is difficult to protect the apparatus if the playground is not fenced, and it is still more difficult to protect the neighborhood from annoyance. There is frequent complaint from the use of the school yard as a playground, but the complaint nearly always comes from the use of it by rowdies at night after the director has gone. If a school ground is fenced,

the children can also be prevented from running by dangerous pieces of apparatus where they are likely to be struck. Discipline becomes much easier. The fence also makes of the school yard an institution and helps to create loyalties.

There is also an æsthetic incompleteness about an unfenced yard. It does not seem to have the individuality that it should have. Nature puts the bark about the tree and the skin about the animal to separate each from other things, to mark the boundaries of its individuality. The mind seems to demand that things that are distinct in fact should be distinguished by some boundary from other things.

In many school yards there is a fence dividing the girls from the boys, and it is the practice in municipal playgrounds to have separate playgrounds for boys and girls. The reasons for it are obvious and sufficient; there are often loose girls and always loose boys coming to the playgrounds, and it is better not to have them together, or where they can corrupt other children. The same is true of the school playgrounds. If the school yards are to be unsupervised loafing places, as they have so often been in the past, it is certainly better that the girls and boys should loaf separately; but if the school yard is to be a playground and under supervision, it is probably better not to have a division fence in most cases, because the ground is generally not large enough to be divided and because in case of division there must be two play directors in the yard, an expense not always justified by the attendance. It is socially dangerous for older boys and girls to loaf together, but they can usually play together with safety.

School fences thus far have not been very satisfactory, as a rule. Undoubtedly in most cities the school yard has been the most neglected and unsightly place in the whole city. If

it has been unfenced, it has generally revealed to the passer-by a stretch of untidy, bare ground. If fenced, it has usually been with rough boards, painted on the outside and unpainted on the inside. The steel picket fence is more satisfactory. It is permanent, difficult to climb over, and reasonably good looking. It is, however, very expensive and less beautiful than hedge or wire. I am inclined to think that, except in the extreme northern part of this country, a hedge of ever-green privet is one of the best fences. It is cheap, beautiful, difficult to climb, and gives privacy to play, and shuts off the ugliness of the bare ground within. It is a protection from storms in winter, and its grateful green is always restful. It will have to be planted in good soil and protected by a wire fence in the beginning. The prettiest fence, and also one of the cheapest, that can be put around a school ground is a woven-wire fence covered with flowering vines. The wire should be close enough, at the bottom at least, so that indoor baseballs will not go through. If rambler roses or clematis or honeysuckle be planted over this, it will be a flower garden set on edge during a considerable part of the year, and often the prettiest thing in the whole neighborhood. The fence at the Jamestown Exposition was eight feet high and completely covered with honeysuckle and clematis. The fragrance could be perceived for several rods, and it was admired by all. It grew within a year or two.

Trees. — If a school ground is to be much used in the late spring and summer, in most parts of the country it must have shade. In some parts this is true for nearly the entire year. Trees also add greatly to the attractiveness, if they are well selected and properly placed; but it is also possible to destroy a school playground for play from bases by plant-

ing in it half a dozen trees in the wrong places. If the first tree is planted on the home plate, the second tree in the pitcher's box, and the third tree on first base, and so on around, it will not take very many trees to spoil the available space in most school yards. A large part of the trees that have been planted thus far should be cut out. I have known a small yard to be ruined by planting three trees. In most grounds all trees within the play space should be eliminated. The playground needs shade, but it also needs space. The trees should be planted around the playground at the edge and not within the ground itself. In larger grounds there may also be trees around special features, such as the baseball diamond or the basket-ball or volley-ball court, or along the walks, or along the running track at the side of the ground, but trees should never be planted at random, without a definite plan for the yard and a definite purpose for the trees.

One row of trees should be set around the school ground just outside the sidewalk, and a second row just inside or just outside the fence, according to the size of the ground and the width of the space between the sidewalk and the fence. The rule of tree experts is that shade trees should be planted from twenty-five to forty feet apart. It is a good rule to plant alternately cottonwoods and hard maples, or hard and soft maples. Then the soft maples or cottonwoods will grow up rapidly and begin to furnish shade very soon, and the hard maples will come on more slowly. As soon as the hard maples develop enough to give sufficient shade, the cottonwoods or soft maples should be cut out and all the space given to the slower-growing but more beautiful trees. If this method is followed, the trees should be planted from fifteen to twenty feet apart, so that they will be thirty or forty feet apart when



A SHADY CORNER

the soft trees are cut out. It might be well also to plant a different kind of tree in the inside row from those in the outside row. *Paulonia japonica*, common in New York City, looks like a catalpa with the blossoms of wisteria upon it, and is very attractive. The catalpa itself is a beautiful tree, both in the spring, when it is in blossom, and in the fall, when it carries its long drooping pods. Some of the streets of Washington that are bordered with horse chestnuts are very beautiful in the spring, when the trees are in blossom. Even our common basswood or linden is fragrant and attractive in April and May. In the South the magnolia can be used effectively, and in California the beautiful pepper trees are very decorative. Any of these trees will make of the school yard a great bouquet in the spring-time worth coming a long way to see. It might be well at times to select nut trees instead of flowering trees. The hickory turns a rich yellow in the fall; and hickory, walnut, and butternut furnish good shade. Such trees offer an opportunity for nutting festivals in the fall, though it might be that the temptations the nuts would offer to climbing might not be good for the trees. In Porto Rico they say that they cannot have mango trees in the school yards, because the children break them down in climbing for the fruit. The Japanese ginkgo, a tree much used in the streets of Washington, is a beautiful tree, but it is little known outside of Washington.

Very many trees that are planted in school yards die. The most common cause is probably that they are not really planted. A tree is dug or torn up from somewhere, a hole is cut in the school yard, the tree is stuck in, earth is thrown on the roots, and the tree is considered to be ready to grow. It is needless to say that such methods do not secure satisfactory results. Trees should be planted late in the fall or early in the

spring. If a good many of the roots have been broken, a proportional part of the top should be cut off, for there will not be enough roots to feed a large amount of foliage. A tree cannot be planted in the sterile subsoil of a school yard with reasonable expectation that it will live. A space from four to eight feet square and two or more feet deep should be excavated and filled in with good, rich earth. The whole should be well packed and watered down, and the tree should be boxed. The estimated cost of planting trees in Washington was \$4 a tree. This price was for the planting and boxing alone, as the trees were furnished by the city nursery. This may seem expensive, but it is scarcely one per cent of what a well-placed tree is worth to a school yard.

It is a good thing to have benches around a number of the trees, in order that the children may sit in the shade when they are tired or when they are eating their lunch. Wherever it is possible the games and play should be so planned inside the yard as to keep a grass border from eight to ten feet wide under the trees and along the fence. This adds greatly to the attractiveness of the yard and serves as a pleasant place to sit or lie in the shade.

The Newer Uses of the School Yard. — Since the school yards are very inadequate, the problem is to get a maximum use of a minimum space, so as to make the small yard meet the needs of the children. One of the rules of efficiency experts is to use the plant as much as possible. There is very little available play space in most of our cities, either for children or for adults. If the school yard is to have its maximum use and efficiency, it should be used from eight o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock in the evening all through the pleasant weather, a possible efficiency of about fourteen

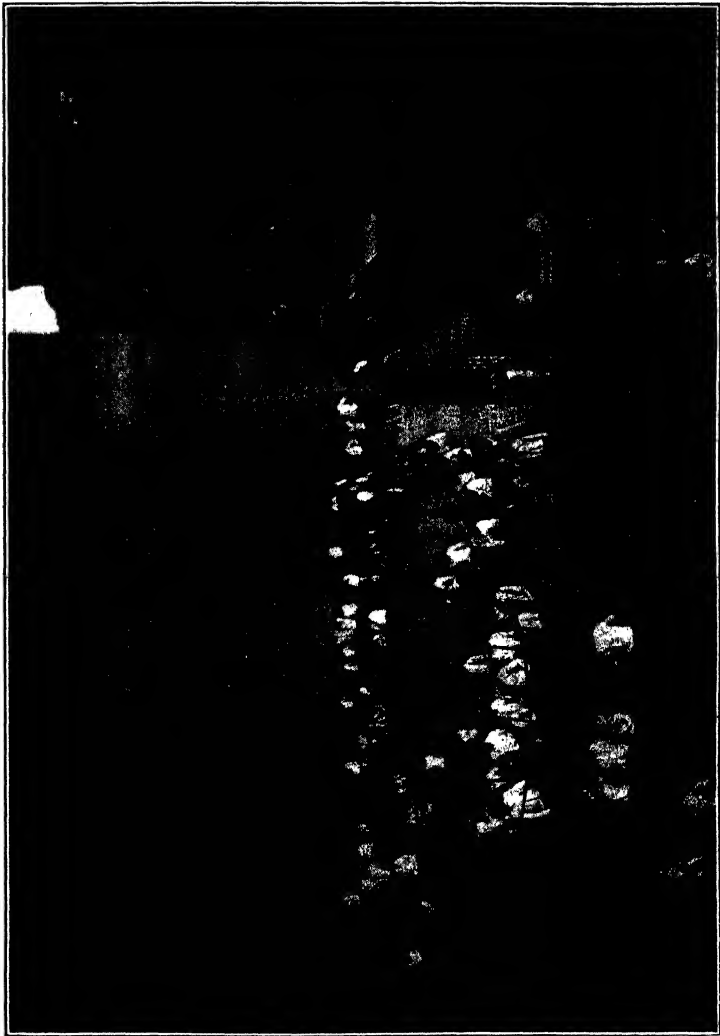
hours a day. As opposed to this, in many school systems the children are not allowed to come to school until just before nine; they are sent home at noon and as soon as school is dismissed for the day, making a minimum efficiency of half an hour to one hour's use each school day, with no use at all on Saturdays or during the vacations.

A Director of Physical Training. — For most cities the absolute prerequisite of a play system that is worth while in connection with the schools is that the city have or employ a competent director of physical training. This person must plan what is to be done, arrange tournaments and contests, teach folk dances, arrange exhibitions, gala days, and play festivals. As he will deal largely with untrained people, he must also train his teachers. The physical director should have his long vacation in the winter time in most cases and have charge of the playgrounds all through the summer. The position deserves an adequate salary, and a capable man should be secured. If his salary is the same as that of the principal of the high school, it will not be far wrong.

A Teacher at Each Ground. — There will be no play on the school grounds that is worth much unless there is a teacher or physical director in charge. This teacher should have charge after school until dark; after supper until about ten, if the ground is lighted; on Saturday mornings at least; and all through the summer. Where the ground is kept open at night, it is highly desirable that a special playground teacher be employed, but if the playground is open only after school and on Saturday mornings, regular teachers from the schools may be utilized for the work, receiving from \$15 to \$25 per month additional for it. During the summer time full time and full pay are, of course, needed.

Lighting the School Playground. — It is not the school children alone who need to play. In some ways the problem of the working boys and girls is still more acute. Most of the former are engaged in monotonous tasks, and the spirit of youth recoils from them at night, and they go to the dance hall, the saloon, the picture show, or worse places. They must have their recreation at night, because they are working during the day. For two or three hundred dollars, it is possible to light a school playground so that it can be used for basket ball, volley ball, and indoor baseball at night, and also for folk dancing and various forms of athletics. If the school has a swimming pool and gymnasium and auditorium, these will furnish to all the young people nearly the same facilities as the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. possess, and will make an attractive center for the young life of each community. More and more such ground should attract business men and their wives to come out after supper and play with their children the games that the playground offers.

Planning the School Ground. — Very often not more than half of the possible efficiency of a school playground is secured, because the ground has not been properly planned. If the boys wish to play basket ball, they put up the equipment anywhere that there is room for it, regardless of whether it is the proper place for the game or not. If a basket-ball court is placed in the middle of half an acre of ground, it takes practically the whole space, though it does not need more than a fifth or a sixth of it. Games should be assigned to spaces where they will fit snugly and where they will not interfere with other games in other spaces. Indoor baseball, volley ball, and basket ball should be provided with permanent locations, as this is the



AN IMPROVISED VOLLEY BALL GAME, NEW YORK CITY

only way in which the maximum efficiency of a school yard can be secured.

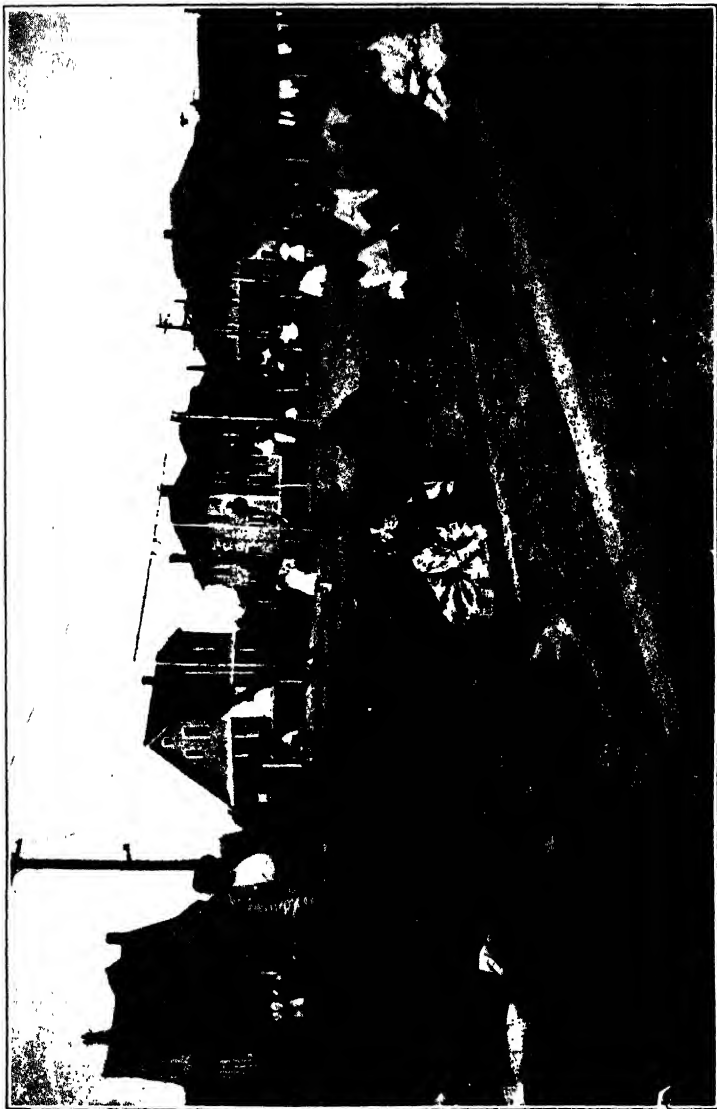
Equipment for Games. — When it is determined to have a public playground in a school yard, the first thing to be provided should be the apparatus for playing games. This should consist of the indoor baseballs, volley balls, basket balls, and tether balls, ball clubs, tennis nets, and tennis rackets that are needed. All of this property is for common use and should be furnished by the school. If a boy brings his baseball to the school, he will get no more good out of it than the seventeen other boys that play the game with him. There is no reason why one boy should furnish such equipment to the school. The same argument applies with still more force to volley balls and basket balls. They are useless to the individual child, and they are awkward to carry from place to place. Adequate play in games such as these cannot be had unless the school furnishes the necessary apparatus.

Equipment for Athletics. — School yards are not well suited for athletics in general in most cases, but there are two or three events that should usually be provided for. It is often possible so to construct a straightaway sixty-yard running track by the fence, that it will take very little room, and the children can practice whenever they please. The different dashes, twenty-five, fifty, and sixty yards, should be laid off permanently, and the school should provide a stop watch so that the children can be timed. There should be a jumping pit about four feet wide and twelve to fifteen feet long, filled with soft sand to the depth of about eight inches. The take-off board should be set in the ground flush with the surface. Standards should be furnished for the high jump, as this is even better liked than the broad jump. The school carpenters are usually

able to make very satisfactory standards. There should be one or two horizontal bars, which may be homemade or purchased outright. Horizontal bars are often installed in school yards without any provision to lessen the force of a fall. Such bars are dangerous; one would not think of exercising in a gymnasium without a mat underneath. The earth should be excavated under each horizontal bar, and sand should be filled in. The horizontal bar can be used for "chinning" and for many exercises in which the boys take pleasure.

Playground Apparatus. — School authorities are likely to think that the equipment is the most important thing in making a playground. In matter of fact, it is the least important element. The thing of first importance is organization; next in importance is equipment for games; next comes provision for athletics; and last such apparatus as swings, and slide. It must not be thought from this that the play apparatus should be left out altogether. It is desirable in order to get the children to come to and stay on the playground.

A great many cities are now putting equipment into their school yards without consulting any one of experience; and it must be said that the apparatus so purchased or provided is often temporary in character, ugly in appearance, and dangerous in use. It is often set in the wrong places and sometimes costs two or three times as much as it should. Very much of this, although of recent installation, should be taken out at once and replaced by equipment that is safe and suited to the needs of the school. It must be remembered always that free play is more important than the best possible use of play equipment, such as swings, and the open spaces must not be destroyed for any kind of apparatus.



THE SAND BIN AT EMERSON SCHOOL, GARY, IND.

The Sand Bin. — The sand bin is the mother of the playground movement, and out of it have grown the other developments. From the time he is one year old until he is ten or twelve the sand will furnish any child entertainment and delight. As the sand bin is for the little children, it should be placed in the most retired part of the yard, where it will be out of the way of the older ones. It must have shade, or the sand will get too hot and dry in the summer time. It is well to place it under or around a tree. It should have a molding board or seat around the edge, so that the children can mold the sand upon it. This is often used also as a seat when the teacher wishes to tell a story or to give instruction. The sand should be, if possible, the fine white sand of the seaside, as this is pleasant to work with and does not soil the clothes; but any building sand, such as that used in making plaster, will do. The carpenter of the school board can make the bin. The sand will gradually work out upon the playground, where it will often greatly improve the surface. As it is necessary for the sand to be renewed occasionally to keep it in a sanitary condition, this leakage is a good thing. The sand bin does not require a bottom if the ground is level and hard. It should be made either of cement or of twelve-inch planks, with a molding board eight or ten inches wide around the edge. It should usually be painted the color of the ground, so that it may not be conspicuous.

Seesaws. — The seesaw is much used in the school yard, but not much can be said in its favor. The children who are using the seesaw are not getting either physical, intellectual, or social training. It is the frequent source of accidents and disputes. If a short seesaw board is placed on a high standard, it is very dangerous, because it then makes an acute angle when

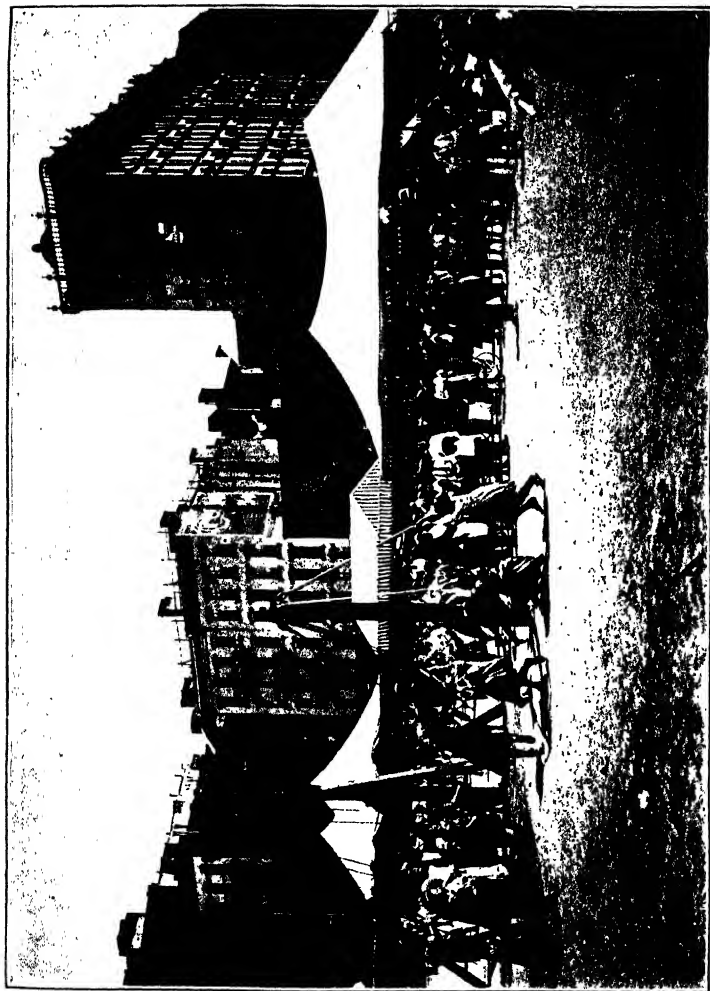
the child goes down to the ground. The long seesaw is safer than the short one, because the angle of the plank in its descent is not so great; but it must be remembered that there will often be five or six children on each end of the seesaw, and there may be danger of its breaking if it is made long and not well strengthened. The principal danger is that the child who is down on the seesaw may slide off and let the other child down with a bang. I have known of half a dozen broken arms resulting in a week from a new set of poorly made seesaws. Another danger appears when the children stand up on the seesaw. One end comes down suddenly and the other child is thrown off on his head. The seesaw ought to have a handle. It should be made so it can be taken in at night and in the winter. It should be placed near the fence in some retired part of the yard. It is best to set it on a steel support anchored in concrete.

The Slide. — The slide is one of the most popular pieces of apparatus, and will be used almost continuously by a large number of children. There are likely to be disputes and quarrels over the swing, but the slide offers a natural rotation in office. Sliding represents a universal interest of children, for they have slid down banisters and cellar doors from time immemorial. Almost every place that offers a natural incline in the cities will be found to be used by them. People generally have the idea that the slide is dangerous on account of its height, but in an experience of seventeen years I have never known of a single serious accident from the slide, except from slivers in the early days when slides were made of pine. Railings at the top prevent the children from falling off there, and after they sit down on the slide they cannot well fall unless they try so. There is a general feeling also that the slide is

very hard on clothes. I doubt if this is so, if the slide is in good condition. Even in the schoolroom the child wriggles around constantly in his seat, and the seat or the cushion is not usually very smooth. The children tend to run up the slide if they are not watched at first, and also to slide down standing up. If a slide is scratched and marked with nails, it is much more destructive of clothes. The crucial thing about it is the condition of the incline itself. In the early days these slides were often made of pine. The pine could be made very smooth and safe, but after a rain the grain was likely to come up, so that a child might be impaled on the splinters as he slid down. Most of the machine companies now make a steel slide. This is well galvanized, but the galvanizing is apt to wear through where the children place their feet, causing the metal to rust. A rusty slide both soils and wears the clothes very rapidly. The steel slide is too cold in winter and too hot in summer for much comfort. It is also too expensive to be generally purchased. W. S. Tothill, of Chicago, makes a maple slide that answers all requirements very well. It does not rust or splinter. It is not too hot or too cold; it sometimes warps, but never seriously. The twelve-foot slide is sold by Marshall Field & Co. for \$15; and the fifteen-foot slide for \$30. The slide needs to be waxed occasionally or dressed with raw linseed oil. It is well to have a carpet mat or two to sit on after rains or after oiling, and it is desirable that the apparatus should be made so that the sliding board is detachable, allowing it to be turned over or taken in so as to protect it from the rain. It is difficult to take the slide in, and a board may be chained in it or a chain may be put around it to prevent its use at night.

Swings. — The swing is probably the commonest piece of

apparatus for the play of small children everywhere. It is also one of the most dangerous, and, as generally made, one of the most unsightly. It probably causes more quarrels than any other one piece of apparatus and more criticism from its use at night than anything else about the playground. In unfenced school grounds the swings should be made so that they can be taken down or chained at night. It is best, as a rule, to make the swing frame of three-inch gas pipe, if threaded; or of two-inch up-rights and three-inch horizontals, if unthreaded. Two-inch galvanized pipe will cost about sixteen cents a foot, and the three-inch pipe about thirty-two cents a foot. Black pipe will cost about two thirds as much. The swing should be well braced and set in concrete about three and one half or four feet deep. The swings for a school yard should not be over eight or ten feet high. The tall swing takes up too much room, is preëmpted by the large children, and is too dangerous. The swings should be placed in the most retired corner of the yard and parallel with the fence, where children will not be struck by them. People are apt to fear that the children will be hurt by falling out of the swing. This rarely happens. The real danger is to the child who is running by. If two children are standing up in a swing and swinging hard and another child runs by and is struck in the side of the head, he will certainly be seriously injured and may be killed. In some places the swings are fenced off so as to prevent this. A piece of rubber hose is sometimes nailed to the side of the swing board so as to deaden the blow if a child is struck. For the school yard it is best to have as light a swing as possible, because its momentum is not so great in that case, and it is easier to put out and take in. A wooden board and ropes are to be preferred to an iron seat and chains or links. The steel hook that supports the swing



LOW GIANT STRIDE, SEWARD PARK, NEW YORK CITY

is a crucial point, as it is likely to wear through. It should be made of hardened steel and should wear on a steel thimble around which the rope is spliced. Girls should not be allowed to stand up in swings, as their dresses tend to fly up. Boys should not be allowed to swing girls for still more obvious reasons. It is best for children to swing themselves, as that is the only way they get any exercise from swinging. The pipe fittings can be purchased of any of the machine companies. The pipe can be secured of local dealers, and all should be erected by local men. The swings can also be made satisfactorily by any ingenious carpenter. The pipe should either be galvanized or painted green. The concrete blocks should be sixteen to eighteen inches square. There should be about twenty swings in the yard of a good-sized city school.

The Giant Stride. — The giant stride is often put into school yards. It is always enjoyed by the children and has some value as exercise. It is a rather expensive piece of apparatus, however, and the steel ladders are rather dangerous. For the school yard I prefer the rope and wood ladder with wooden rungs. This is lighter and does not bruise where it strikes. It is also much easier to take in the ropes when that is desired. The giant stride should be placed in the corner of the yard, if possible, so that it may be out of the way of the games and that the children upon the ground may not be struck by those who are flying around upon it.

The School Menagerie. — Children are nearly always fond of animals. It is they who are the chief patrons of the zoölogical gardens everywhere. The opportunity to see the pigs and the cows and the chickens constitutes one of the chief charms to them of the trip to the country. It would be well if there were animals to feed and watch in every school yard. It

would be still more delightful if rabbits and squirrels could run about on the playgrounds among the children and not be harmed. There is a "coon tree" in the yard of the Emerson School, at Gary, Ind. There is a house at the foot of the tree into which the raccoons may descend and where the children may go to make their acquaintance. In the yard of the Froebel School there is a large fountain that will be stocked with fish. It would be well to put bird and squirrel boxes in the trees and to encourage the children to feed the birds and squirrels if the attitude of the children makes this practicable.

Construction or Purchase of Equipment. — A school playground may be satisfactorily equipped for about \$200, if most of the equipment is made and set up by local men. The slide can probably be purchased as cheaply as it can be made. Other pieces of apparatus will cost considerably more from the machine companies.

It is difficult to estimate just what it will cost to construct play equipment in the different cities, because this depends so much on local conditions, but dealers are nearly always willing to give special prices on material to be used for the play of children. In Washington, we were accustomed to put the following equipment into each school yard: twelve swings, two teeter ladders, two seesaws, two tether poles, one giant stride, and one sand box. This equipment was all steel, with rope swings, no less serviceable than a five hundred dollar equipment of the machine companies. It cost us \$150. If to this a slide at \$30, a horizontal bar, and a pair of jumping standards be added, and the teeter ladders are taken out, the cost should be about \$200; though I think these materials are somewhat higher now than they were then.

The steel framework for the twelve swings, two seesaws,

and two teeter ladders set in concrete cost us about \$80. Of this cost, \$34 was for the steel pipe, \$20 for fittings, \$9 for sand, cement, and gravel, \$1 for uprights for teeterladders, and \$16 for labor. We painted this framework red to protect it from rust, and afterwards black or green.

The two seesaws, of Georgia pine, twelve feet long, fitted on steel pipe, cost us \$1.50 each, \$3 for both.

We furnished the materials, and the twelve swings cost us \$1 apiece delivered with seat of Georgia pine, four thimbles where the rope works in the hook-and-eye bolts, and the best Manila rope used. (Hemp would undoubtedly be better, but it is difficult to get.) It is usually possible to find some carpenter or otherwise ingenious person who can make swings during the winter and at other odd moments at a very reasonable price. There should be two or three extra swings ordered for each playground, so that these can be used when others are out of repair. Children always tend to dig up the earth beneath the swings, so that water stands there after rains. Often platforms of Georgia pine, about three feet wide, are needed.

The tether poles we made either of spruce or Georgia pine. They were four inches in diameter at the bottom, tapering to two and one half inches at the top, thirteen feet long, and square for three feet at the bottom. These, painted with one coat of white paint with a black ring six feet from the ground, cost approximately \$3 each. Three inches from the top an eye screw was turned into the pole to hold the string. These rather large wooden poles are better than the small steel pole because the large pole makes the game faster and enables more children to take part in a given period of time.

The sand bin, eight by twelve feet in size, of Georgia pine, with a molding board around the edge, cost \$5, and the sand about \$2 more.

It is comparatively easy to manufacture all this equipment except the giant stride. For the giant-stride post five-inch steel pipe should be used. The taller the pipe the better the children like it, but also the more room it takes, and more danger from one child striking another as he flies around. The heads of the giant stride with ladders may be had from any of the machine companies. The head with steel ladders is more durable, but it is also expensive and causes a good many more bruises.

In a number of cities, the labor unions have erected the play equipment without cost except for the materials; this applies especially to the carpenter work and the like. They usually insist, however, as the condition of their giving their assistance, that all the work shall be union work. In most of the schools of Washington the cost of installing the apparatus was met by entertainments given by the schools.

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CHAPTER VIII

PLAY AT THE RURAL SCHOOL

PROBABLY the rural school has been the most neglected of our whole educational system, and the yard has been the most neglected part at the rural school. Inadequate in size, often unfenced, with unmowed grass, it shows at once to the passer-by that to the school boards, play has not seemed important.

The American farmer has been the strength of the republic, and from the farm homes have come most of the men who have made American life. But the farmer as a class is the most complete materialist of a very materialistic nation. A very large proportion of them have always devoted themselves to the work of the farm with such perfect absorption that they have forgotten all of the other values of life. If one will go to a farmer anywhere and ask that his boy may have Saturday afternoons in order to play on the baseball team, he will probably say that his boy does not need to play baseball because he gets plenty of exercise on the farm. Play has not much more to do with exercise than it has to do with religion. It is the life of the spirit, and the farm boy needs play for its social and spiritual values far more than the city boy does.

It must be remembered, also, that the work of the farm has almost completely changed in the last generation. The farmer no longer cuts his hay or wheat with scythe or cradle, but with mowing machine and harvester. He no longer

holds the handles of his plow in a single furrow, but to a large and increasing extent plows his fields with a gang plow which he rides. More and more he is becoming the operator of machines rather than a worker with his hands. The farm boy to-day is not getting at all the physical training from his work which the farm boy got forty or fifty years ago, and such work as he does have is likely to be of a kind that involves stooping and tends to give him round shoulders and a forward slanting head.

Whenever the test of the Public School Athletic League has been introduced into a rural community, it has been found that farm boys find it quite as difficult to pass this standard test as do the boys in the city, and all the indications are that the training of farm work cannot be depended upon to give the boy the sort of development which he should have. Farm work will develop certain muscles, but it will probably give the boy round shoulders and a flat chest, and will do little to develop his heart and lungs.

The Size of the School Grounds. — From decade to decade the farms are growing larger throughout the United States, and the families are growing smaller. In the days of the pioneers, while the houses were oftentimes far apart, the families were so large that there might be a good deal of play at home. To-day, with increasing farms and decreasing families, this is becoming more and more difficult, until it is now necessary for the children to have nearly all their play at school.

My work takes me through nearly every state in the Union, and I am convinced there are less than five per cent of the rural schools in the United States that have grounds large enough to play baseball upon. In the county in which I live, out of some one hundred and forty schools, there is not one

that has a playground one acre in extent. As a boy in a rural school in Michigan, I always had to play baseball with the others either in the road or in a neighboring field, and this is pretty much the fate of the country boy everywhere.

It is impossible to set any arbitrary standard for the size of a school ground in the country, but it certainly should be large enough for baseball. Very often a neighborhood park and picnic ground should be made at the school also. This should always be done, if the site offers the facilities, and there is no better place in the neighborhood. The minimum size for the ground of a country school should be two acres. Nothing less than this will do for baseball, and if the tract is to be used by the older people evenings and Saturdays, as it ought to be, nothing less than three acres will be adequate. Ten acres will not be too much for the general athletic field and picnic grove for the consolidated school. There is no advantage in the large yard, however, unless it is kept mowed. City children need a good-sized school yard because there is no other place to play. Country children need a large yard because there is no one to play with except at school. The State Boards of Education in Pennsylvania and Virginia are dealing wisely with this problem by requiring the plans of all buildings and grounds to be submitted to the State Board for approval and by not approving any plans for new schools that do not have adequate playgrounds. The school laws of North Dakota now provide: "The School Board of any school district may take, in the corporate name thereof, any real property, not less than two acres, nor exceeding five acres in area, chosen as a site for a schoolhouse."

Beautifying the Grounds. — In the past the ground of the country school has been not only inadequate in size, but it

has been very often in a wretched condition. It is frequently evident from its appearance that this particular site was selected because it was of no value for any other purpose, and the school building has been so located that it is almost impossible to have any organized games upon the ground. Generally the grass is unmowed. For the most part there are no trees nor vines nor flowers, and very often there is no fence. There is no attempt to make it seem homelike and pleasant. I remember, as a boy, that we once persuaded the school directors to plant trees on our school ground, but they planted the first tree on the home base, the second tree in the pitcher's box, the third on the first base, and so on around. These trees did not last very long, and it is well that they did not. There should be a double row of trees around the edge of the school ground, but no trees in general within the play space. A good fence is of woven wire covered with some kind of flowering vine, but it is not wise to plant shrubbery in school yards, as many landscape architects are seeking to do at the present time. Places of concealment of this kind are not good anywhere that children play.

Games for the School Yard. — We have always been inclined to regard baseball and football as our national games, and every boy aspires to play them. This is right and proper, but baseball is not adapted to at least nine tenths of the rural schools of the United States, for the very obvious reason that there are not enough older boys to play. Baseball is not played much before the age of thirteen, and there are probably not half a dozen boys of that age in the average rural school. It also is not usually played in the fall and there is only a very small part of the time when school is in session that it can be played even if there are enough players. Baseball is

not well adapted to the rural community, because it is difficult to get enough players.

Rural communities are overserious, and it is necessary that the spirit of play should be introduced into country life. It is the lack of recreation, probably, more than anything else, that is driving the young men and women and even the adult farmers to the city. The country school must teach the games that are adapted to country life.

Indoor Baseball. — Indoor baseball is in every way much better adapted to the country school than is the regular game, because a boy will begin to play indoor baseball at eight or nine instead of at thirteen, and the girls play the game nearly as much as the boys. Also, while baseball is played only in the spring, indoor baseball is played both fall and spring, and while the sting of the hard ball is insufferable in the colder months, the same is not true of the large, soft, indoor ball; so that the season for play in indoor baseball is probably four times as long as is the season in baseball. Also, as the ball is large and the diamond small, the game may be played fairly well with less than nine players; so that by utilizing the girls it is usually possible to have a game of indoor baseball at any school that has a dozen to fifteen pupils. If the children are small and there is a goodly proportion of girls who are playing, it is probably best to use the twenty-seven-foot diamond, but with larger boys, the thirty-five-foot diamond will be best. (See appendix.)

Long Ball, or Long Town. — Long ball is really a variation of indoor baseball. It is best played with the seventeen-inch ball. There is only one base and this corresponds to second base in position, but is usually made about five by eight feet in size. There are no fouls, and the player may be put out by

catching the ball or by touching him or striking him with it as he runs. There may be any number of players on long base so long as there is one left to bat. If, however, the whole side gets on long base, the side is out.

Volley Ball. — In a good many ways, volley ball is the best game for the rural community, because it is a natural corrective of all of the bad postures both of the school and of farm work. It is often the only team game that can be played at a rural school, because, if there are only four children who are over nine years of age, they can still play a fairly good game of volley ball. (See Chapter X, p. 199 and appendix.)

Tennis. — We have seemed to think of tennis as a city game, but it would be almost impossible to secure the space if any considerable proportion of city people made up their minds to play. Tennis is a country game of England and is in every way adapted to country conditions. It requires a considerable space for only two or four players, and the country needs games that can be played by two, because there are often only two to play at the country home. For this reason there should be a tennis court at every country school in order that the children may learn to play there, in the hope that they will continue it after their school days are over. (See appendix.)

Croquet. — Croquet does not rank high as physical training, but it is a good social game, and a game that is adapted to country conditions. During much of the year the farm furnishes abundant physical exercise, and the games played should not require a large expenditure of muscular energy. The children should learn to play at school, in order that they may continue to play for the rest of their lives.

Tether Ball. — Tether ball is the most vigorous game that can be played in a small amount of space or can be played by two players. In some of the smallest of the rural schools, it is the only organized game possible except tennis.

Athletics. — There ought to be a horizontal bar, a jumping pit, and a set of standards for the high jump at every rural school. Along the side of the yard or along the country road, if it is level and in good condition, there should be marked off the sixty- and one-hundred-yard dashes. The children will take much more interest in these events if they have a stop watch, so that the runners can be timed, but they will like to run against each other, even if there is no way of keeping a record of their speed. The long races are to be avoided. I have known teachers to urge the children of a rural school to take part in the half-mile run, but I suspect that nearly every boy who did so was injured by the strain involved. A hundred yards is about the extreme limit for a real race for the children of the rural elementary school.

It will be a decided advantage if children can be got to train for the standard test of the Public School Athletic League of New York. This test offers a beautiful bronze button for every boy under thirteen who can run sixty-yard dash in eight and three fifths seconds, jump five feet nine inches standing, and "chin" a bar four times. The buttons can be obtained from the Playground and Recreation Association of America at 1 Madison Avenue, New York City, for fifteen cents. At the time the test was first instituted in Ulster County, New York, there was a general feeling that country boys were strong and could easily do these things; but it was soon found that scarcely any boy was able to pass the test, and many began to train in order to do so. It is a good thing

to have a standard by which our attainments may be measured and toward which we may strive, for no boy will willingly fall much below in physical prowess the achievement that is expected of him.

Play Equipment. — There has been a considerable amount written about play equipment for rural schools, and there is a decided tendency in a good many quarters for the installation of such equipment at the present time. But it must be remembered that the swing, the seesaw, the slide, and the sand bin are for individual rather than for communal use, and that an only child in the isolated farm home can use these things nearly as well by himself as he can with others. This equipment belongs in the yard of the home rather than in the school yard. But it is probably worth while to install a sand bin, a slide, and a few low swings if they can be afforded ; though the chief reason why it is worth while is in order that they may be later found in the yards of the houses as well. Almost the only opportunity which farm boys and girls have for social play is while they are at school, and this time should not be largely devoted to swinging and sliding and other things which can be done at home.

Securing the Necessary Equipment. — It must be taken for granted that in most rural communities the school boards will not be ready at the present time to purchase the equipment that is necessary for the play of the children, and that the school itself will have to do this in some way. Every school should start out the year with three or four indoor baseballs, with a couple of volley balls, with a half dozen tennis balls and tennis racquets, and perhaps a half dozen tether balls, a pair of jumping standards, and a croquet set, and, as I have said, it is probably worth while also to have a sand bin for the

little children, and perhaps a few swings. It will be necessary for the school to furnish these things if there is to be much play that is worth while, but no teacher should be discouraged on account of the expense involved. In Winnebago County, Illinois, there were held last year entertainments at forty-seven rural schools, the proceeds of which averaged a little more than \$35 per school. With this amount of money, it is possible to furnish all the equipment which has been recommended and even to save a small amount to replace material that is worn out. For even so little as \$12 the following may be obtained: one volley ball outfit, \$4; four indoor baseballs, \$4; four bats, 50 cents; one croquet set, \$1.50; one sand bin, \$2. If the children get the pole in the neighboring woods and furnish their own racquets, tether ball need cost only the 65 or 70 cents which must be paid for the ball.

Interscholar Sports. — Competitive athletics in this country have been subject to many serious criticisms. Probably the chief of these is that the practice has always fallen to a few athletic specialists, while nine tenths or more of the pupils have looked on from the bleachers. Probably the rural school is the best place for competitive athletics, because, if it gets up a contest in almost any series of events, it will be necessary for it to use and consequently to train its entire student body. The country boy is diffident on account of a lack of experience and acquaintance with other children, and almost anything that takes him out of his home setting to another school and makes him acquainted with other children will be a valuable experience in itself.

The farm boy has no knowledge of sportsmanship. He cheers his opponents' mistakes and tries to interfere with

them in their play. It is not surprising, however, that he does this, because we have not done much better in our colleges and high schools, and the knowledge of sportsmanship is not hereditary. There ought to be competitions in country schools in order that the children may learn what sportsmanship is.

The country school is without loyalty, and the easiest way to develop loyalty is to hold a contest with another school. A contest always serves to make play more interesting and to raise the standard of achievement.

School Excursions. — We must regret that walking trips, which are almost universal from German schools, have not become popular in America. Of course we have not the same number of interesting places to visit in the immediate vicinity that are likely to be found in any community of the Old World, where history has had time to accumulate. But there are dozens of things within walking distance of nearly every rural school that are quite as interesting and educational as anything that the children are studying about in their school books, and they are likely to be much more important to them because they are nearer home. I have taken a great many parties of school children out on such expeditions, and I am convinced that they will often learn more in an afternoon spent in this way than they will in a whole week spent in school. I believe the school could well afford to give Friday afternoons during the pleasanter part of the year to walking trips to neighboring places of interest.

One of the saddest things about country life is that so very few of the farmers love the country. They have never learned to see the glories of the sunset or the distant horizon, to admire the beauty of the flower or the song of the bird. Children

have a spontaneous appreciation of beauty and love to pick flowers and look at colored pictures. It has been merely a case of starvation that the adult farmer has ceased to care for them. It is this nature environment which is the sovereign advantage of the country, and a real appreciation of nature is one of the strongest ties to hold a capable population. This is perhaps most easily acquired through walking trips. The German teacher always makes it his business to point out the beautiful scene and to make the children acquainted with the different birds and flowers.

Corn Clubs and Fairs. — Corn and other industrial clubs have developed very rapidly over the entire country during the last four or five years, and there are probably four or five hundred thousand children now taking part in the contests involved. These are furnishing practical instruction in agriculture and domestic economy such as the rural school has not been able to give. They are making country life more interesting and giving at the same time a social opportunity to the children which is greatly needed. They are also furnishing a basis for a type of coöperation which we may hope will give the farmer of the future greater influence in the community and put him less at the mercy of middlemen the country over. Wherever it is possible to develop the social side of these industrial clubs, so that they may perhaps have athletics or the Scouts or the Camp Fire Girls as one of their activities, or, if the boys' and girls' clubs may sometimes meet together for social occasions, it will be worth while.

During the last few years there has been a very large development of the school fair. In the states of Virginia, and Kentucky there is now a county organization in a large number of the counties, and a county fair, which represents wholly

the work of the children at school and in their various outside activities, such as cooking, and corn and chicken raising, is held each year. In a number of other states, there is a township or school district organization of such fairs. All of them, I believe, are making farm life more interesting and bringing the school nearer to the community in ways that will be helpful to both.

The Play Festival. — Probably the first rural play festival in this country was organized in Ulster County, New York, in 1905. In this case it was the work of the Normal School of New Paltz, and was carried out under the leadership of Principal Scudder of that school. He sent the girls out from the normal, in the first place, to teach the games at the different rural schools and to get the teachers and pupils interested. They came together in June in a play festival which brought out a large percentage of the people of the country. This play festival has been carried on ever since. There are several other normal schools which are now holding a similar play festival each year. There are at the present time eighty-nine counties in the United States which have county secretaries of the Y. M. C. A. In nearly all these counties there is some organization of athletics, usually with a play festival or general picnic, at some time during the year. In a number of cases these play festivals and contests are held during the county fair, but in many they are held in the spring. There are probably fifty or more counties in the United States where athletics are organized under the county superintendents and where a play festival is held each year. One of the easiest ways of organizing such a play festival is to have the matter presented to the teachers and the games taught during the county teachers' institute.

The play festival serves to interest the whole county in play as few other things do and to set the children to practicing in all of the rural schools. It is therefore very helpful, especially in the beginning, in getting the play movement under way.

Who is to Organize the Play? — In many country sections of Germany there is an official who is known as a Spiel Inspector, or Play Supervisor, who has charge of the organization of play. In Hamilton County, Tennessee, three years ago a similar official was employed, and it is possible that in time American communities will see the need of a play organizer. The great weakness of the rural communities everywhere is the lack of leadership, and it does not seem likely that the country will be able at once to organize its own play and social life as it should be organized without such a leader. A play director has been found absolutely necessary to the city. The problem of organization is more difficult in the country, and the play director is perhaps even more necessary there.

The Consolidated School. — The whole tendency of educational progress in rural communities at the present time seems to be toward the consolidated school. A large proportion of our rural schools now have only ten or fifteen children, and it is expensive to maintain an up-to-date school for so small a number. More and more we are requiring agriculture and domestic economy, and it is almost impossible to have these properly taught by a teacher who has all grades and all subjects to teach. It has been found in very many places that it is considerably cheaper to bring the children to the consolidated school than it is to maintain a large number of one-room schoolhouses throughout a township.

The country boy is diffident and backward from the isolation

in which he lives. More than any other child he needs to go to a large school, in order that the social life there may compensate for the lack of social opportunity at his home. Every boy should play baseball. The rural school often does not have enough children. To me, however, the strongest reason of all for the consolidated school is that the community needs it both as a center for its social life and its educational life.

In the state of Iowa, the minimum-sized ground for a consolidated school is four acres, and this is probably not above the average of the entire country, for a very large number of these schools are getting ten or fifteen acres. In a number of cases, there are picnic groves also in connection with them, and at some there is a township playfield where matched games are played on Saturday afternoon. If, now, the principal of this school may be paid a certain amount extra, in order that he may organize social activities, such a school may well furnish a real center for community sociability and play.

The Schools of Villages and Towns. — Probably rural villages are the worst places in the world to bring up children. The great city with its art galleries and museums and factories and endless traffic is a constant exposition of all the world is doing, and the farm with its varied industries offers an opportunity for training which makes the farm boy at fourteen practically the master of a trade. But there is no place in the world where there is quite so much idleness as in a country village, and there is no place where it is more dangerous. I am inclined to think that the villages need the play movement as much or more than any other part of the country.

In the village it is usually possible to secure an adequate amount of ground without the price being prohibitive, and

this may be so secured that it will furnish a playground for the adults as well as the children. The play problem is made difficult in the great cities by the fact that many different groups of foreign peoples are mixed together there and there is too much disparity in race, religion, and traditions to make possible a real community spirit. On the other hand, the town usually does not have a large foreign population, or if it does, it is a foreign population of a single race. It is probably possible to have more ideal play conditions in a city of four or five thousand than it is in a larger city. The village and the small city are especially suited to the organization of the Boy Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls, because the young people have the time, and the surrounding country is available for "hikes" and nature study and similar purposes.

The Boy Scouts. — At first thought, it seems that the country is the place for the organization of the Scouts, and it does have many advantages which the city has not; but, in actual fact, there are almost no Scouts there. The reasons for this are not far to seek. Country boys in their teens are busy, they are scattered over a wide territory and do not often get together. Farmers have not yet developed a spirit of social service, and it would be almost impossible to get Scout Masters. The country boy does not need so much to be a Scout as his city cousin does, because he already has an opportunity to observe nature. Of his own accord he camps more or less, mostly less, but he hunts and fishes, roams the woods, and learns to be resourceful and self-reliant. He has many useful things to do which correspond to the arts and crafts for which the merit badges are given. He has no surplus idleness, which is the bane of the city and village boys alike.

Really the best place for the organization of the Scouts and

the place where it is most needed is in the country village. The country and usually the woods and streams are accessible. There is an opportunity to go for week-end camps, and for several weeks during the summer to go on long walks and excursions. In short, all the arts of scouting can be practiced most easily from a village headquarters. There is also very often in the villages some young lawyer or doctor, whose practice is not yet a burden, or some young minister, who can give the time that is needed to organize the troop and direct its activities.

The Camp Fire Girls. — Pretty much the same arguments may be adduced for the organization of the Camp Fire Girls in rural villages and cities. There are special advantages which come from the nearness of the country, and the girls can easily find the time and the guardians.

The Social Center. — In Europe, the farmers for the most part live in rural villages. They go from these villages in the morning to their farms and return to them at night. Thus they have the same opportunity for sociability in the evenings that city people have. The American farmer, on the other hand, lives apart in an isolated dwelling. During his work in the field he usually has no opportunity to converse. It is more necessary that he should have some place where he can meet socially with others than it is that the city dweller should have a social center. Also, the work on the farm is heavy during the summer; but there are usually five or six months during the year when farm work is slack, and there is time for social meetings.

In the early days the country schoolhouse was this common meeting ground. In it were held the spelling matches, the singing school, and the rural debate, and here came the stroll-

ing magician and the itinerant pastor on Sunday. But all of these social uses of the country school have fallen away. The social center is needed in the country for social reasons. It is needed no less on educational grounds. A comparatively small proportion of the farmers have had any instruction in the principles of scientific agriculture. Within the past generation the work has been completely transformed, and it is almost impossible for him to-day to be successful without a knowledge of the more recent discoveries and improvements. The best place there is for the extension lecture is in the rural community, and the social center which is equipped with a modern moving-picture machine and the newest type of a phonograph should be able to secure the attendance and to give just that instruction which is needed in order to make the farmer successful in his work.

The great need of the present time in rural communities is organization. A smaller proportion of farmers, perhaps, is organized than any other industrial group and for this reason, although the largest single class in the country, they have had comparatively little influence in politics and have been almost completely at the mercy of the buyers or commission men in the sale of things that they have raised. Denmark has shown how a sterile, sandy peninsula may become wealthy by rural coöperation, and this the American farmer must learn. But it cannot well happen unless there be some common meeting ground where farmers may come together to discuss their problems.

The Rural Teacher as a Social Worker. — Commissioner Claxton says that there should be "a teacherage" with five or ten acres of good ground attached to every rural school. The teacher should thus become a fixture in the community

and should conduct a model farm as well as a school. Certainly the great lack of the rural communities is leadership and social organization, and almost anything that the rural teacher can do in the way of organizing athletics or games, or picnics, or sociables, or entertainments, or play facilities, or other social occasions, will be for the welfare of the rural community, and he may well feel himself a missionary of the higher life in doing so. We are taking the spires off the churches; we must put them back upon the schoolhouses, that the rural community may learn that life does not consist in what we have, but what we are and what we enjoy.

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CHAPTER IX

THE PLAYGROUNDS OF GARY

THE most interesting city in this country from an educational point of view is the city of Gary, Ind. Gary has made an important contribution to the solution of many problems of modern pedagogy, and she has perhaps come the nearest of any city to a real solution of the play problem of her children. She has solved the question of a very nearly maximum and uniform attendance at her playgrounds at all hours of the day and evening. The play features in Gary are a part of a school system that is notable in many particulars. The man behind the system is William A. Wirt, the Superintendent of Schools, a man alike of great poetic insight and rare administrative efficiency.

The Gary System. — There are so many things that are distinctive at Gary that it is not easy to seize upon any one or two of them and say that these are the fundamentals, but the feature which has made many if not most of the other developments possible is that it is a departmental system from the first grade up. All the teachers are specialists, and all the children go from room to room for their recitations as they do elsewhere in high schools and colleges. There are unusually large shops and laboratories and an auditorium, so that at least half of all the children are always in them instead of in the classrooms, and each school is designed for twice as many children as its classrooms will hold. This permits of special

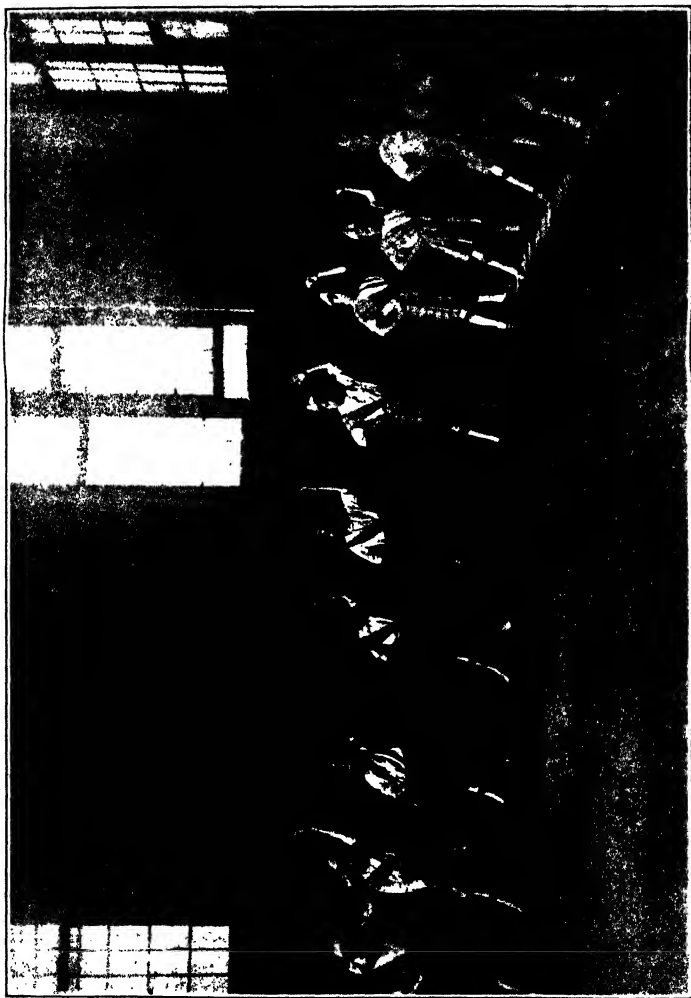
teachers of such subjects as physical training, carpentry, cooking, without any extra expense, as there is only one teacher to a class, even including the principal. One quarter of all the teachers are physical trainers. The schools are in session twelve months a year and for seven days a week for certain features, six days a week for all features.

The Jefferson School. — The Jefferson is the smallest of the schools. It contains only six classrooms, but it was thought by the Steel Corporation that it would be adequate for the needs of the city for many years. In this school there are, however, twelve classes and nearly six hundred children. There is a principal who does not teach, three physical trainers, and eight classroom teachers, so that there is under this arrangement actually one less teacher than there would usually be under the old plan. The twelve classes represent the first six grades of the elementary school. There are no recesses, but each class has two one-hour periods of play or play application of a regular lesson in the playground if it is pleasant, in the gymnasium if it is not, each day. One of these periods is naturally in the forenoon and one in the afternoon. They are put into the program like any other school periods, so that organized play is going on at every period of the day. There is also a period of thirty minutes each day of more formal physical training. The playground of this school is the smallest in Gary, only about two acres in size. There is a school garden of about half an acre and there is perhaps an acre and a half of play space. The playgrounds were expensive to make, as the whole city has been built on the soft sand dunes of Lake Michigan in which one sinks ankle deep. It was impossible to have a playground without covering the sand; so it was covered with the ground slag from the mills to a depth of

about ten inches. It was thought that this would make an admirable surface, and it is, in dry weather, but it gets muddy after rains; so this in turn has been covered with a layer of cinders from the furnace. These cinders, however, were much too coarse, and are difficult to run over, and wear out the balls very fast. These must be raked off, and it is now proposed to put in a grinding machine, so as to grind the cinders as they come from the furnace and surface the ground with these.

The gymnasium is the old attic of the school which has been made over for that purpose. It is very large and serves for all sorts of musical entertainments and exhibitions as well as for gymnastics and play.

The Emerson School. — The Emerson School was the second school built. It is similar to the old-time English Public School or the German Gymnasium, in that it has all grades from the kindergarten to the college. Although the equipment is less complete than that of the Froebel, it is more complete than that of any other school that I know. The four-acre playground is surrounded and divided into two nearly equal parts by an inexpensive fence. On the boys' side there is an equipment of all-steel apparatus next to the building and running parallel to it. This consists of five or six swings, two seesaws, a giant stride, and a merry-go-round. There is against the side of the gymnasium a very good hand-ball court, and between that and the apparatus there is a large concrete sand bin and a wading pool about thirty feet square. The equipment is practically the same on the girls' side. Beyond the apparatus is a good circular running track without a curb, a straightaway track, a jumping pit, and a place for the high jump and the pole vault. The central space is reserved for baseball



A HIGHLAND DANCE AT GARY, IND.

and football, though it is not large enough for a full-sized diamond or gridiron. It is lighted at night, and at one time when I was there, there was a matched game in soccer football going on between two night-school teams. This playground is undoubtedly modeled after the boys' playground in the South Park System of Chicago, but the substitution of play space for the outdoor gymnasium seems to me a decided advantage.

On the girls' side, there is less space, probably too little, given to general play. There is a tennis court, a basket-ball court, and a coon tree, with a small house around the base, so that the children can go in and play with the animals if they wish. The ground is badly surfaced with coarse cinders.

The school contains two gymnasiums, one for the girls and one for the boys, and a good-sized swimming pool. The boys have two periods a week for swimming, the girls one period a week. The boys go in nude. The girls wear a white one-piece suit, which they make in the sewing room, where they also make their bloomers for their gymnasium work. The girls have not been required to wear white suits until the past year, and the order is the result of the discovery that the color came out of the other suits more or less, thus throwing considerable of the dye into the water. This was found to be irritating to the eyes and generally injurious. I have not heard of any such requirement of undyed bathing suits elsewhere, but, I doubt not, the conditions are no different in Gary in this regard from what they are elsewhere. Practically all of the boys learn to swim and learn all of the common strokes. Many of them swim and dive very well indeed. Not so large a percentage of the girls learn to swim, as many of them have not been able thus far to afford bathing suits or to change from the old to the new kind. There are no life savers, of course.

The children seemed to me much more proficient in swimming than they are in Chicago.

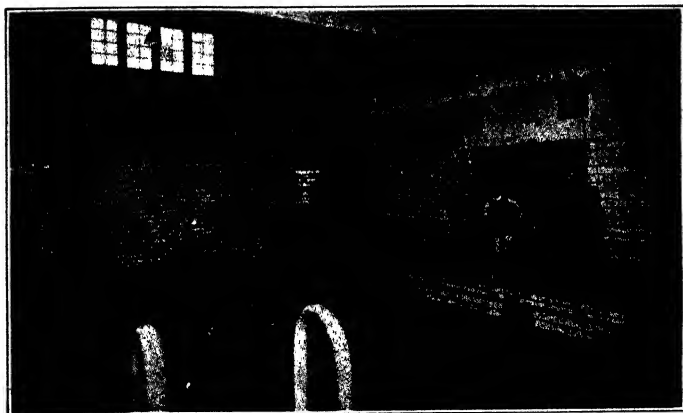
The water is kept in a sanitary condition by continuous filtration and the use of alum and hypochloride of lime as sterilizing agents. Under this treatment the water is rendered almost absolutely free from bacteria. Hair and dirt from the body, which are likely to accumulate in the bottom of swimming pools after a short time, are removed by a vacuum cleaner without emptying the pool. The water is changed only once in five weeks. This is a great saving, as the water to fill the pool costs about \$3.50, and the heating as much more.

There are four physical trainers at the Emerson School, and each class has two periods of physical training a day up to the sixth grade, and one period a day after that.

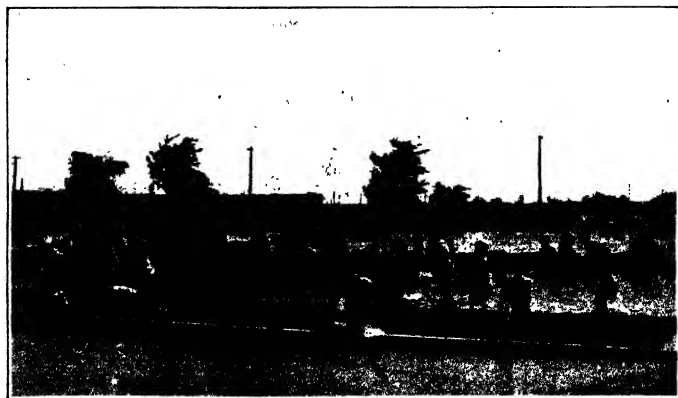
The Froebel School. — The Froebel School is very nearly the last word in school construction. It has a community park in front and perhaps seven acres of playground. It has two, or, perhaps better, three gymnasiums, as the stage is some eighty feet square and is used for basketball and other games, and for gymnastic and dancing drills and exhibitions. It also has two swimming pools.

The Gary System is very Successful. — The Gary playgrounds are open from eight A.M. to five P.M. and during the evening every day and all day on Saturdays and on Sunday afternoons and evenings. They are also open all through the summer vacation. Thus there is always a place where the children can go to play, when they have time to play.

The playground of the first school was two acres, of the second four acres, of the third eleven acres, and the site of a fourth school contains twenty acres. The park board has recently purchased a five-acre addition to the Emerson and a



BOYS' DAY AT EMERSON SCHOOL, GARY, IND.



THE WADING POOL AND SAND BIN AT EMERSON SCHOOL,
GARY, IND.

ten-acre addition to the Froebel School grounds. The ground for the Froebel School cost \$7000 an acre. It was a long fight to get two gymnasiums and a swimming pool in the Emerson School, but when they came to build the Froebel School, they put in two gymnasiums and two swimming pools as a thing of course.

It is estimated that a city school will cost about \$8000 per classroom. By this system half the number of classrooms are saved. This would mean a direct saving of nearly \$100,000 on a building for twenty-four classes. This saving covers the cost of the extra large playground. The expense of the Chicago school system per pupil enrolled is \$43; the expense of the Gary system is \$40.

The children in Gary are entering the high school nearly a year younger than they are in other cities, on the average. Mr. Wirt says the graduates of Gary are generally given advanced standing in the universities, so that he thinks that they are very nearly covering the Freshman and Sophomore years of college, in science at least, in the twelve years of their school course.

Physical training in this country has not been properly adjusted to the individual. Our general practice has been to begin in the high school or college and to require exercise during a whole or a part of these years. Gary puts physical training into the first grade and has two hours a day for the first six grades, one hour a day from the sixth to the eleventh grade, and makes it voluntary after that. In this she follows almost exactly both in time and grades the requirement of the English preparatory and public schools. I doubt if this is enough time in the first three or four grades, but it is certainly better than the common practice. The work is, however,

so adjusted that it is possible to give children more time for play, if, for any reason, it seems desirable.

Putting play thus into the curriculum is not so great an educational innovation as it may appear at first. We have already seen what is being done abroad. In our high schools and some of our elementary schools, we have put two or three hours of gymnastics into the weekly program. If gymnastics in the curriculum can be defended, we need no defense for play. The gymnastics are indoors where the mats are often dusty, and the air is never as good as it is outside. Gymnastics are likely to be physical exercise, with comparatively little interest or relief from the conditions of the classroom. On the other hand, play is in the open air. It is as good or better exercise than gymnastics. It is an almost complete relief from mental strain, and it is quite as good a training of the social, emotional, volitional, and intellectual faculties as it is of the body.

There are many who think that if play is put into the program of the school, it will straightway cease to be play and will become work. This is doubtless a possible result, but not one greatly to be feared. It has never been said that play in the school recesses became work because it occurred during the school day. It is possible to have the organized play merely an organized school recess, with a physical trainer in charge. In fact, that is practically what they now have at Gary. If the master of any school should say to his pupils, "Well, boys, instead of having arithmetic this morning, we will go out and play baseball," there are not many who would regard baseball as work because it came in school time, and I am not sure but its play value would be enhanced by that fact.

The Gary System solves the Problem of Attendance. — In many of our cities magnificent play systems are lying idle. The children are at school and may not use them, or they are playing in the streets and alleys and are not using them. If children must go home from school and come back a half mile to the playground, only a small proportion of them will ever attend.

We believe to-day that play is essential to the development of the child; that it is nature's method of education that has come down through the centuries. We believe that every child should play and that he should play every day. It is certain that no system of park playgrounds has ever secured the daily attendance of any considerable proportion of the children, and it is almost equally certain that it never will. The children will largely play in the street rather than make the effort to go away to a playground where they may be molested by other children who are strangers to them. For the past ten years the German Play Association has been working to secure a compulsory play afternoon each week for all the German schools, and a very considerable proportion of the cities have this. If we are really going to furnish organized play to all the children, the only way it can be done is to put it into the curriculum.

There are several other well-nigh unsolvable problems in the attendance at the municipal playground. One is that it is very irregular, and facilities that would be adequate at nine in the morning may not meet ten per cent of the need at five o'clock in the afternoon. No two hours will have the same attendance, and the difference in numbers will be very great. If supervision is furnished on the basis of the smaller attendance, it will be entirely inadequate for the larger attendance.

If supervision is provided on the basis of the larger attendance, the slack hours will be oversupervised. If supervision is furnished on the basis of an average attendance, this will be excessive part of the time and inadequate at others. When it is realized that the numbers vary at different hours from twenty-five or thirty to five hundred or a thousand, it will be seen how difficult this problem is. On the equipment side, this means that there will be a great deal of equipment and many game fields lying idle at certain hours ; while at others, the equipment and facilities will be insufficient for the children.

The Gary system not only secures the attendance of all the children every day, but it secures an approximately equal attendance of children each hour during the day, so that the equipment and play fields are always in use, but are never overcrowded. The municipal playground secures the minimum use of play facilities at the maximum expense. The Gary system secures the maximum use at the minimum expense. The Park Playgrounds of Chicago have, I should estimate, at most not more than five per cent of time efficiency, while the grounds at Gary have at least fifty per cent of time efficiency, and with the growth of the schools and the development of athletic interests in the neighborhood, they may well have one hundred per cent efficiency. Every play facility furnished at Gary may well be used every school period by the pupils, and after school and in the evening by the community. This makes easily possible ten times the use that park grounds in general are likely to have, as these are idle as a rule during school hours and at night.

The lengthening of the school day at Gary has been an advantage in itself, because the extra hours have been taken from the idleness and " the street and alley time " of the children.

It has thus removed the chief source of dissipation and vice and given a great positive advantage at the same time.

The Lighting of the Playgrounds. — Thus far it has not been possible to play baseball anywhere at night. It is possible to play soccer football, basket ball, indoor baseball, volley ball, and tennis. Perhaps with the new artificial daylight which is coming in it may be possible to play even baseball. Night is, of course, the pleasantest time in summer to play all the games that can be played then. The Emerson School makes its own electricity at a cost of from one cent to one cent and a half a kilowatt, and it costs one dollar and a half a night to light the playground. The electricians promise us that processes already discovered will cut the prices of electric lighting in two. The evening playground is always the cheapest playground, when its use is considered, and the cost of lighting is estimated against the purchase of ground to secure such use.

As the playground is used each hour during the school day, at the noon intermission, probably half an hour at least before and after school, and for about three hours in the evening, there is a total use of twelve hours a day. Municipal playgrounds that are not lighted are used during the school year only after school and for not much more than an hour a day on an average. One acre of playground at the Emerson would provide the same play facilities as twelve acres of municipal playground that is used only one hour a day. But if our cities were to lengthen their school day as Gary has done, it would not then be possible to use the municipal playgrounds at all during the majority of the school year, unless they are lighted at night.

Need of More Organization at Gary. — The weakness of the Gary system is not overorganization, as some might be inclined

to think, but the lack of adequate organization, as it seems to me. Gary has put playtime into the curriculum, but it has not, properly speaking, put play into the curriculum. The Gary play periods are the old recesses taken at different times during the day with physical trainers in charge. There is less of idleness than there is in most school recesses, but it is still present. In the German and English schools, certain games are required. I believe that Gary should do the same, because this will secure better and more vigorous play, and because there are certain games that every boy and girl ought to know.

Baseball in the Curriculum. — The park baseball fields are nearly always sodded. They cannot stand more than one game a day, as they are usually laid out. They are used by adults after work hours and children after school, so it is usually possible to have only one game a day except Saturdays and Sundays. Baseball requires about two acres of ground. Approximately twenty per cent of the men and boys of any city are of baseball age, about twelve to twenty-two. If Gary with her forty thousand inhabitants were to seek to furnish baseball facilities in her parks for all these people, it would require eighty acres of ground, if each of the four thousand people involved should play once a week and the ground be used five times a week. Not all of baseball age will wish to play, but many will wish to play more than once a week, and there will be especial demand on Saturdays, so this provision will probably be about right. If, on the other hand, baseball is put into the curriculum of the school, the same ground can be used seven times a day by the school children and once after school by the adults of the community. This would make eight times as great use as is possible in the park grounds ;

or in other words, ten acres or five baseball diamonds would meet the need of a city of forty thousand people. In actual fact the ground would have much more than eight times the use of the park ground, because play might be required of the schoolboys, and because the grounds are central in all communities and not in inaccessible suburbs where much time and carfare is wasted in going back and forth. There are a great many times when the day is cold or threatening when it would not seem worth while to go to a distant park ground, though these conditions would not prevent the use of a school ground. This should lead to their having a much larger use by the adults during the evening as well as by the children during the school day.

Maximum Efficiency at Minimum Cost. — The daily attendance at the different facilities of the Emerson School, including the showers, swimming pools, and such equipment, is at least six thousand children. This would be the attendance of four of the South Park Playgrounds of Chicago thrown together. To maintain four of the South Park Playgrounds costs from \$100,000 to \$130,000. To maintain the recreation facilities of the Emerson School requires the following expenditures: Supplies, \$1500; two men physical trainers, \$3000; two women physical trainers, \$2500; one pool and gymnasium attendant, \$780; one grounds attendant, \$780; for heat, light, and water, \$1000; making a total of \$9560. As the physical trainers take the place of regular teachers and one janitor is the regular school janitor, only \$3280 is properly chargeable to the playground. The exercise and the social influences emanating from the school, and the activities carried on, are in every way superior to what it is possible to furnish in a municipal playground where everybody

comes and where there is no existing organization of the patrons.

The Gary Schools have nearly the same combination of features that the South Park system has. There are twenty acres of ground at the newer buildings devoted to a park and playground, swimming pools, showers, a branch library, an auditorium for public meetings and entertainments. There is also a lunch room at noon and an opportunity for all sorts of constructive play and gardening, domestic science, and manual training. As a recreation center the Gary School and playground is thus more complete than the Chicago park and field house, and it has, of course, its whole scholastic and technical plan besides. As has been seen, the cost of the recreation per person served cannot well be more than ten per cent of the cost in Chicago.

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CHAPTER X

PLAY IN THE CURRICULUM

The Problem. — Nearly all students of childhood have come to believe that play is the most fundamental thing about the child, that it is nature's school for his physical, social, and mental development. It follows as a corollary that every child should have a place and time to play. Yet there probably is not a municipal play system in this country that is securing the daily attendance of more than ten per cent of the children, and, for the most part, it is reaching this ten per cent in a very unsatisfactory way. A proper play life is as fundamental to child welfare as the school. We would not rank the school system high that secured the attendance of only ten per cent of the children ; there is no reason for regarding the play system with a similar attendance as more successful. It is believed that the only way that play can be furnished to all children, during the school year at least, when it is most needed, is to put it into the curriculum of the school. This method not only secures the attendance of the children, but it obviates nearly all the objections that have been raised to playgrounds in different places.

Play at the Municipal Playgrounds. — In many ways, the conditions in the municipal playgrounds of America are unsatisfactory. Play systems have been created largely to keep the children off the streets, but often a fine play system will be found to be almost deserted, while the adjoining streets are

thronged. During the school year it is almost impossible for the children to attend the playgrounds for more than an hour a day. Probably not more than twenty per cent of them attend that much. The playgrounds lie idle for seven out of the eight or nine hours of the daytime, thus securing a time efficiency of twelve and a half per cent. During this time, they have an attendance efficiency of not more than forty per cent, giving an actual efficiency of five per cent, but, at least half of this use is by children who are loafing as much as playing, which would give an actual play efficiency of two and a half per cent for ten months of the year for our expensive municipal playgrounds. These figures do not overstate the actual conditions in most of our great cities.

This lack of use of municipal grounds is, however, only half the problem: while the play is better than the play of the streets, it is far from being satisfactory as play or under satisfactory conditions. There is some profanity, obscenity, and smoking in all, and there is a great deal in some. It is likely to become the resort of the community loafers, and if the boys and girls make use of the same ground, it may become a place where loose boys and girls get together. It is likely to be a place, also, where cadets and procurers go to seek young girls. There are many careful parents who refuse to allow their children to attend. They are almost never centrally located as to child population, and generally their use requires a double trip from the school home, and from the home to the playground. This arrangement secures a minimum use for a maximum expense, and, at the same time, the least result for the greatest effort.

All the problems of the municipal playground are made difficult from the fact that many of the children are unknown

and consequently irresponsible. Children are much more likely to steal or smash up equipment than they are at the school. Consequently a larger number of paid helpers are required. Pupil monitors can be of great assistance on a school playground where they are regarded as a part of the school, but this is less true at the municipal playgrounds. There are likely to be feuds among the children of different sections of the city, and when these children come together on the playground, they are not well enough acquainted or friendly enough to organize easily into teams or worth-while activities. The children change from hour to hour, and it is almost impossible to have a schedule of play by regular teams, and nothing else secures the training that the team should give.

The municipal playground brings almost inevitably a divided loyalty for its regular attendants, or it may displace the loyalty to the school altogether. One hour of competitive baseball will do more to create loyalty to the institution represented than a year of classroom work, and it is a serious thing for the school to lose thus the chief means of securing the loyalty of the children.

Play at the School Playgrounds. — If the park and municipal playgrounds are not securing adequate results, the conditions are equally unsatisfactory at the school playgrounds. For the most part, they are open only during the summer time, leaving the school year, when organized play is most needed as a relief from the strain of the classroom, unprovided. There is sometimes an hour or two after school, but the supervision is nearly always unskilled and the attendance is always voluntary. The larger part of the students, including nearly all of those who are overstudious and need the play most, do not stay. All the natural team combinations are broken up by

the going home of a considerable part of the children, and the ones who remain are of such different ages and so mixed together that team games are difficult. A playground of this kind will always have much idleness, and its use will be largely the use of apparatus, which always makes a playground of second grade. The school playgrounds are small and quite inadequate for play when all the children use them at the same time.

Why should Play be Required ? — There is every reason to suppose that the problem of the physical welfare of the child is growing more serious from year to year. In Germany and England the percentage of young men who are fit for military service grows less and less with each decade. The same forces of city growth and increased use of machines and soul- and body-destroying factory labor are at work here as they are in England and Germany, and there is reason to suppose with the same result. The school should give them a robust physique to combat these conditions; but instead of doing this, an appalling number are weakened or broken down by the school itself.

The need of furnishing organized play to the girls is greater than it is for the boys, because the girls do not have much encouragement from their parents or from the community. Their life at home is more indoors, and they cannot well play on the streets as the boys do. Their clothing is always unsuitable, and they need to have most of their play at school, where they can wear bloomers. All over the civilized world at the present time the birth rate is going backward. Havelock Ellis says this lowered birth rate is due both to increased sterility and a growing disinclination to motherhood. Dr. Montessori speaks in her "Pedagogical Anthropology" of "the

laborious modern childbirth, and the dangerous childbirth in the case of women who have devoted much time to study." The daughters of the peasant women of Europe who have settled in New York are often unable to nurse their children, a trouble almost unknown to their mothers. Dr. Newell, in a report to the Park Association of Providence, says: "There is going on in this country, especially in large towns, a gradual physical degeneracy of the race. Each generation is becoming less able to bear the wear and tear of life. It is well known that the large town would soon be depopulated if it were not for the country."

The Earl of Meath, in speaking of "The Decay of Bodily Strength in Towns," says, "If we could isolate the city and prevent all intermarriage with the country, the degeneracy in the physique of the inhabitation of the former would probably be so marked as to horrify the public, and would arouse a sense of national peril; it would command the attention of the parliament and the country." He says again: "It will be found that the denser and poorer the neighborhood, the lower will be the physique of its children. A competition in drill takes place annually between the Board Schools of London, and upon these occasions the above fact becomes distinctly apparent." Havelock Ellis says there is no fourth and usually no third generation from the families reared in London. A larger and larger proportion of our population are becoming city dwellers. If our city population is not to reproduce itself, and the families in the country are to continue to become smaller and smaller, we shall soon become a nation of immigrants at the mercy of the ideals of South Europe.

Training must be given by the Elementary School. — Physical training and the establishing of health is the paramount

business of early childhood. The physical training of the child begins in the spontaneous movements even before birth. The baby lies upon his back and kicks up his heels and waves his fists in such a way as to give almost ideal development to the muscles of the arms, legs, and back. The child of two or three finds in running and walking and climbing constant use for every muscle. In pioneer days this training was naturally continued by the hunting, and the fishing, the felling of trees, and the other activities of the frontier. To-day, for the great majority of children, these activities have ceased. The daily life no longer furnishes the necessary exercise, and the school must do it. In my investigation at Clark University, we asked a large number of children whether or not they liked to go to school, and, if they said they did not, in nearly every case they gave as the reason because they "had to sit still," or some other reason that implied inactivity. I can remember myself, in the days of the water pail, how eager I was to pass the water, or to collect the waste paper, and, if there had been spittoons that I could have cleaned out, I would gladly have done it in order to get out of my seat.

Everything seems to say that the time for physical training is in the elementary school. It is then that there is the greatest interest in physical achievement. Health and life itself are dependent upon establishing a strong physique at that time. Physical development in childhood builds the foundations on which all later success must be erected. If the child is anæmic and puny, he is likely to be carried off by sickness. He cannot stand the worries and labors of school life. As soon as puberty comes the girl puts on her long dress, and her physical activity is greatly limited thereby and by the periods of disability that come with it. She must get most of her physical

training, if it is to be really a general training, before this period. In the days of Pericles, the boy up to fourteen years of age went to the playground in the morning, and to the school in the afternoon. In Germany to-day there are from three to six hours of physical training a week in all grades of the elementary school. In the English schools that prepare for the public schools, such as Eton and Rugby, there are about twelve hours a week. In contrast to this we have scarcely any in the elementary schools of this country. There is, however, a strong movement in this direction at present. State requirements are being established, and curriculums of games are being introduced. The time to train along any line is surely the time of greatest interest in this activity and the ripening of the faculty which it is to use. The intellectual development of the race has followed its physical development. The physical is the first side of the individual to come to maturity. All of these arrows indicate that physical training should, in general, precede intellectual training, and should be completed long before the intellectual training can be finished.

How Play may be provided for all Children. — The only solution of the play problem of our cities that I can see is to put play into the curriculum of our schools. It is not difficult to do this, but we shall have to use somewhat different methods from those which we have used in the past. Gary has shown us the way. The time after school is being wasted in our cities. There are two methods that are open to us in order to furnish all the children with an opportunity to play at a reasonable expense. We may either 'take' an hour from our present scholastic day and devote this hour to play or we may add an hour or more to our school day and devote these hours to play. I doubt if there is any other satisfactory solution.

There is no serious objection to taking the time needed out of the school day for the younger children at least. We have undoubtedly kept these children at scholastic tasks for much longer periods than they were able to give attention.

It is well known that the child of five or six cannot attend to any one subject for more than fifteen minutes at a time, and normally, he flits from task to task. We have made them stupid by lessons in which they were not interested and which had no relationship to their experience. In a study of twenty thousand children in New York, it was found that the children who had been on half time had made considerably better progress than the children who had been on whole time. Lee says our present method is devised to teach a child how to do one hour's work in five hours' time. When a child once gets into a habit of doing one hour's work in five hours' time, it is almost impossible to educate him. Hutchinson says, "A child can read over in thirty hours all that the school requires him to master in 3000 hours, and to suppose that it takes a child a hundred hours to master what he can read over in one, supposes an excess of stupidity, which the ordinary child does not possess." Colonel Parker said that if you would give him any normal child at fourteen, who had never been to school at all, he would put him through the high school in four years. Most of our ablest men were educated on four months a year. The country children have not suffered greatly as compared with city children, because they have had a shorter school year.

We now know that there is no advantage from teaching the child to walk while he is very young. When his time comes, he gets on his feet and walks. If we succeed in teaching him much earlier than this, we merely make him bow-

legged by the process. The same is true of much that we are teaching the children in the school. The children would learn it anyway, and we are merely making them spiritually bow-legged, and dulling the keen appetite of interest by giving these subjects before the psychological time. These considerations seem to me to justify taking an hour from the school day for play, for the younger pupils at least, but it would doubtless be easier to add the play hour on to the present school day.

Street and Alley Time. — Superintendent Wirt says he has taken the street and alley time of the children and devoted it to education. He says that in the early days, there were chores to do and the regular industries of the home, the children must leave school by four or earlier in order to help their parents. These activities in and about the home have disappeared and left nothing for the children to do. The hours before nine and after four are spent largely about the shops and streets, unlearning the work of the school. I have observed the children in many cities, and nearly everywhere, if organized play is not furnished, they are loafing. In an observation of two hundred and twenty-nine children in the city of Houston, Texas, in the time after school, I found them to be doing the following things: One was studying, five were reading, two were looking at pictures, two were caring for the baby, four were going on errands, one was watering the lawn, two were swinging, two were roller skating, three were playing with pets, four were playing catch, five were playing at keeping house, seven were carrying papers, forty-six were playing ball, forty-one were strolling on the street, and ninety were merely loafing. Thus it would appear that one hundred and thirty-one out of two hundred and twenty-nine children

were doing nothing of any value to any one. The forty-six who were playing ball were all within four blocks of the one organized playground, where a series of contests in baseball was going on. Children were not playing ball much anywhere else in the city, so we may reasonably conclude that this play was due to the playground. If we take these children out, it leaves only fifty-two out of a total of two hundred and twenty-nine who are, on their own initiative, doing anything of value, and of these fifty-two, the activities are not on a high plane so far as child development is concerned. Nearly the same results would be found in any other city where no organized play is furnished.

It is generally a relief to the parents to have the children away until nearly supper time, and it is always a relief to know that in this time they are not being subject to undue temptations or bad influences. It is the idleness of the children in the cities that is the greatest danger, because it is in this time that nearly all vices are acquired. The lengthening the day in itself is a very great advantage and it makes possible a number of other advantages. It was not possible to have these long hours in the old scholastic type of school without injuring the children, but in a school that joins together work and play and study much as life itself has always done, the harness can be adjusted to the child so as to avoid strain. Mr. Wirt has taken the time that heretofore was worse than wasted and devoted it to highly educational uses.

Nearly everywhere on the continent of Europe the school day is at least an hour longer than it is here, and the Montessori schools for little children have seven- or eight-hour sessions. The Gary system is being much copied and there is a growing sentiment for a longer school day the country over. I believe

that a longer day that made room for play would be wholly advantageous.

It would or should remove much of the strain of the school day for both pupils and teacher. The German records show that there will be less absence on account of sickness. There will, of course, be less breakdowns of the pupils. It will tend to make the school life more pleasant and to keep the children in school. It will largely solve the problem of street and alley loafing of the children, which is, perhaps, the greatest menace of child welfare in the city, and it will produce a more vigorous race.

Personally, I believe we should be justified in adding to the playtime of the children from both of these sources. Physical development and health is the paramount consideration for little children. Early childhood is the physical period of life. At least half of the time of children should be devoted to physical activities. By our present precocious forcing on them of scholastic tasks and knowledge, for which they have no use, we are accomplishing little except to stultify their minds and make them despise books. If an hour were added to the school day, it would keep the teachers at the school for an hour longer, but each teacher would have one free period in which she could correct papers or prepare work for the next day. This should enable her to leave her work and her cares at the school, when she goes home at night. But the great relief would come because the children would be less restless if they had not been so closely confined in the classroom, and had had an opportunity to use some of their surplus energy on the baseball instead of the teacher's nerves.

For a generation or more, play has been required in the preparatory and public schools of England. In the council schools

of England physical exercises and games are in the program of the school and take place in the yard during the regular school hours. For more than twenty years the Germans have been putting more and more play into the curriculum of their schools. There are many American cities that have done something in this direction. To put play into the curriculum of our schools will be in accord with the educational tendency throughout the world.

The School should require and teach the Common Games and Sports. — Our whole curriculum has been determined in the past from the interest and considerations of adults. We have not put in a single subject because the child as a child needed to know these things or because it corresponded to a natural interest of his. We have left out of consideration most of the things that he needs to know and to be able to do that he may be successful in the little world in which he lives. It is no wonder that the child, despite the estimate that is constantly forced upon him by adults, has always, himself, held a low estimate of the school.

The Greeks and the Romans were not far from having a natural system of education. The first interests of the child are physical and his first education should be physical. He should learn to manage himself in the various environments in which he may be placed, to walk, to run, to jump, to swim, to skate. These are a part of the knowledge that makes him the master of himself in relation to his environment. This is the ability that he has always craved and this is the ability that he will most readily acquire in his earliest years. His muscles are plastic. He sees the value of these accomplishments, because his status in the child world is largely determined by them. He thus has a natural incentive to

effort, and an effort that is not half hearted, in acquiring skill in these activities.

There are also certain games that belong to our civilization. It is quite as necessary that a boy should know these games and be able to play them, if he is to be at home among his fellows, and especially if he is to be a leader among them, as it is that a society girl should be able to dance. They also have a specific training on the physical, social, and moral side.

Gary, I think, has made a mistake in putting playtime into the curriculum without putting play. Games are of very different value physically, mentally, and socially. We cannot train athletes from marbles, nor can we train intellect or social feeling. Many games played by the children have little value, but, where there is no schedule, they often do not play at all, but merely loaf about during the play periods. Our school recesses are not accomplishing much except to give relief from study and indoor air, because only a small part of the children play anything that is worth while. We cannot secure definite results from haphazard methods. If we want our school recesses to give a valuable training, we must have a plan for the activities to be pursued.

I shall not attempt to make out a curriculum of games for the little children. Such curriculums are available from New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, and from many German cities. But I believe that all boys should be taught to skate, swim, run, to practice the high and broad jump, to go on excursions, to be scouts, and to play the games of baseball and indoor baseball, soccer football, tennis, volley ball, and hockey. I believe that all girls should be taught to skate and swim and walk and dance and run and be Camp Fire Girls and to play the games of indoor baseball, tennis, hockey, and volley ball.

These games require almost no equipment except the balls and bats with which they are played.

These activities belong to the curriculum because of the training and culture they give, because they supplant vicious interests by wholesome ones, and because if they are not taught and required, they do not reach those who need them most, nor do they yield to the player their full spirit which is the best training we have for citizenship, business, and society. We must get away from the idea that the object of education is to make scholars. It is not true. The object of education is to make men, men of loyalty in civic affairs, and men of efficiency in business affairs. In both of these particulars, the training of athletics and games may be rightly compared, not with any one subject of the school curriculum, but with that of the rest of the course. The activities outlined, not arithmetic, are the really significant things in the world of childhood.

General Athletics. — Athletics in this country have been subject to two general criticisms. They have reached only a small per cent of the student body and, in general, the strongest and best-developed part of it, who had the least need of the training; and, there have been no standards. The A. A. U. has had almost absolute control and, under the guise of promoting amateur athletics, has been interested only in the specialist in sport, who has been practically a professional, whether he has been paid or not. It has not been interested in general educational athletics for the student body. The sort of sportsmanship and courtesy that have been shown at our great college games often has been a denial of all the social and moral standards of our civilization. The movement for reform has also two essential directions. Seeing in athletics

a valuable physical, mental, and social training, it deems that they should be provided for all, and that they should be recognized as one of the great educational forces of the country. The reformers are unwilling to let our standards be set entirely by the sellers of athletic goods or by semi-illiterate coaches, who are hired to win games.

Dr. Luther Gulick has probably done more to reform athletics in this country than any other one man, through two devices, which he introduced into the public school system of New York and has since promoted about the country. The first was the forming of the Public School Athletic League of New York City, which is similar to the Schools Athletic League of London, but was probably a new invention with Dr. Gulick. The essential contribution of this league has been the introduction of a non-competitive standard test, which sets the children to competing not against each other, but against a standard accomplishment, which any well-developed boy should be able to perform. In competitive athletics, children soon learn their relative place. It becomes perfectly certain that Johnnie Jones can beat everybody else in the hundred yards, and consequently no one else cares to run. Competition among individuals tends to the selection of a few winners, toward the specialization of the most capable. This is not the kind of training that the school should give. The small child needs not specialization, but general development, and all, not a few, should get the benefits. The Public School Athletic League issues a handbook, which sells for ten cents and contains its standards. The secretaries of this league in New York City are paid by the Board of Education. There are about a hundred other cities that have adopted these tests from New York. The common standard is that the boy

under thirteen shall be able to run the sixty-yard dash in eight and three fifths seconds; jump five feet nine inches standing; and chin a bar four times. These tests have two great advantages: that they get a large number of pupils into training, and that they set a standard of accomplishment. Children always tend to come up to a standard. To practice for these tests does not require much space, and if there is not room in the school yard, the children can run in the street.

Class Athletics. — The other form of athletics promoted by Dr. Gulick is the type which is known as class athletics. Class athletics were invented by Dr. Ballard, assistant director of physical training for New York City. The class competes as a unit, and the average record of the members is the class record. At least eighty per cent of the children must compete. The competitions are usually in the same events as the standard test. In some ways it is simpler in practice than the individual test as the record of a class can be taken in a dash without a stop watch.

If thirty boys in one class are to compete against thirty boys in another class, they are lined up at the starting line, one behind the other. The starter stands with an ordinary watch at the finish line. When his second hand stands at sixty, he brings his hand down, thus starting the first runners. When the first boy crosses the finish line, he brings his hand down again, thus starting the second boy. After the first start, a second starter gives the signal to the second boy in the second line, as soon as the first boy has crossed. When the last boy of each class has crossed the line, the time is taken. This constitutes the time of the class. If this time is divided by the number of runners, it gives the average time of each runner. One of the great advantages of this system in New York has been that it

has set the strong to training the weak, and has brought up the average largely by improving the weaker ones rather than by further training of the strong. In the chinning contests this method has brought up the record of whole classes to twelve and thirteen times per pupil in the upper elementary grades. The following incident is told of one of these contests: A small boy, after much wiggling and pulling and redness of the face, managed to chin the bar three times. When he came down exhausted, the boy who stood next him patted him on the back and said, "Good for you, Johnnie, you never did it but twice before."

Relay Races. — There is an almost infinite variety of relay races, nearly all of which are interesting to children. Where there are a large number of children in the relay, this is one of the easiest ways to interest children in running, and the wildest enthusiasm is sure to result. (See appendix.)

Folk Dancing. — There is a great new interest in folk dancing at present, also largely due to Dr. Gulick. The folk dances are the old racial dances that have been practiced by peasant peoples in the market places or on the green for generations. They are nearly all vigorous, offering the best sort of physical training. They are done to music, thus adding the charm of rhythm. They are too vigorous to be suggestive and leave the dancer too tired to concoct mischief. For the most part, the women dance with the women and the men with the men. They are one of the best antidotes we have for the dance hall with its well-known evils. They are being introduced into the public schools quite generally about the country. In certain places, there will be prejudice against them, because of the name, but there will be little if any prejudice arising from the exercise itself, and what there is, is rapidly disappearing. Folk

dances lend themselves peculiarly to festival occasions, where they usually form one of the chief charms. Folk dances have the advantage of giving both physical exercise and grace. While they are ordinarily learned in a gymnasium and thus are not directly in the open air, some may be learned in the yard instead and are often practiced there. Folk dancing is especially adapted to the physical training of girls. (See appendix.)

Classroom Games. — There have grown up during the last few years a series of games suitable for classroom use. These may be played in place of having recess on a rainy or disagreeable day, or to liven up the class whenever it gets dull. They are carried on between the desks or over them and are practical for any classroom. If the windows are thrown open during the period, such games may meet the requirements of exercise, recreation, and fresh air.

Need of Better Games. — One reason why the play situation has been so difficult in our American cities is that our games have not been adapted to city conditions or to adult life. In England the man plays cricket until he is sixty or seventy, but here we stop playing baseball by the time we are twenty-five. Any game that is to meet the needs of our schools must have at least the four following characteristics: It must be one where there may be a large number of players in a small amount of space; it must be reasonably safe; it must be good exercise; and it must be one which children will begin to play while they are in school and will continue to play for the rest of their lives.

Perhaps the greatest problem before the immediate future is the securing of a curriculum of games. There are a number of our larger cities that already have such a curriculum on paper,

but they are all tentative in nature, have been drawn without sufficient study or experimentation, and are not followed very closely. As has been shown, there is a rather extended curriculum of play in Germany, and a very meager and rigid one in the Preparatory and Public Schools of England. During the last two or three decades, several new and excellent games have come in, and it is now possible to name from six to a dozen games at least which every child ought to learn to play as a part of his education. But very much study and experimentation and investigation and gathering from all sources will be needed before we may have a really satisfactory curriculum of games.

We have an abundance of passive recreation, but the thinking world is agreed to-day that it is better to play yourself than it is to watch other people play. It is all right to go to the theater, and professional baseball, whether in the American League or the American college, serves a real purpose; but it must be evident that it has not the power to renew and recreate the body, mind, and emotions that active play has. We as a people do not play enough. We loaf too much, and work too much, but of real play of the energy-producing kind there is a dearth. We get dyspeptic and anæmic and nervous from lack of exercise and despondent from brooding over things that we ought to throw off in recurring periods of joyous play. When we have a holiday, many of us find our way to the saloon or some worse place, because we do not know what to do with our leisure.

It is scarcely possible that baseball or football should meet this need. Girls or women do not play either of them. Both are practically confined to boys and men between the ages of twelve and twenty-five. In this limited period of

thirteen years not more than two or three per cent are playing football on regular teams, and probably not more than twenty per cent could safely play the American game. I doubt if more than ten per cent of the boys and men of even this favored age are playing baseball regularly. The lack of grounds within the city sufficiently large makes baseball almost impossible for the average city dweller, and the lack of players makes it equally difficult for the denizen of the country. After one settles down to his life work in business, or shop, or office, or farm, he does not get enough general exercise as a rule, and his muscles stiffen along the grooves of his accustomed tasks. Baseball is too violent a break with indolent or specialized habits after twenty-five or thirty. Cricket is too slow for the American temperament. It takes too long to play a game.

It will be far more important for the coming generation to have an enthusiasm for some form of sport than it was for the past generation, because leisure is becoming a larger part of life. We have a dawning consciousness that the inspirations and maximal experiences of life come mostly in those times when the spirit is free to follow its own guidance, that wisdom or money cannot compensate a persistence in toil that gives not time to live. When it comes to a twelve-hour day in the steel mills or ten hours of monotonous work in a factory, such a life is not worth living. Every year sees one or two states reduce the hours of labor for men and restrict and reduce the hours of work for women and children. The number of new hours that are thus given to leisure each year make an enormous total. It is becoming the habit of our people to take vacations from their own business and to demand them from their employers. Witness the tremendous growth of summer resorts throughout the country. According to Josiah Strong

our national wealth is now doubling every fourteen years, and the rate is accelerating with each decade, owing to the great increase in machinery, power, and labor-saving devices. That we have a new conscience for a more equable distribution of this wealth is shown by a hundred and one movements having in view industrial insurance, safety appliances, the "minimum wage," "standards of living," and the like. Of this same feeling, the rapid increase of the socialist party all over the world is another expression. Just now we seem to be standing on the verge of what may well be a new era in regard to leisure. The efficiency movement is upon us. Through the economizing of motions in the things done and efficient administration at the top, it promises that the work that the world has taken ten hours to do may now be done in five. A second factor no less important is the enormous development of water power that is going on throughout the country. This will mean inevitably that much that has previously been done by human hands will now be done by machines, that the output and wealth will be greatly increased, and that many new opportunities for leisure will result. Ten years hence the work this country is now doing in ten hours may well be done in four or five. Leisure that comes upon a man or a people that are unprepared to use it usually causes dissipation. We must begin to prepare for this coming leisure. We need games that the people will play.

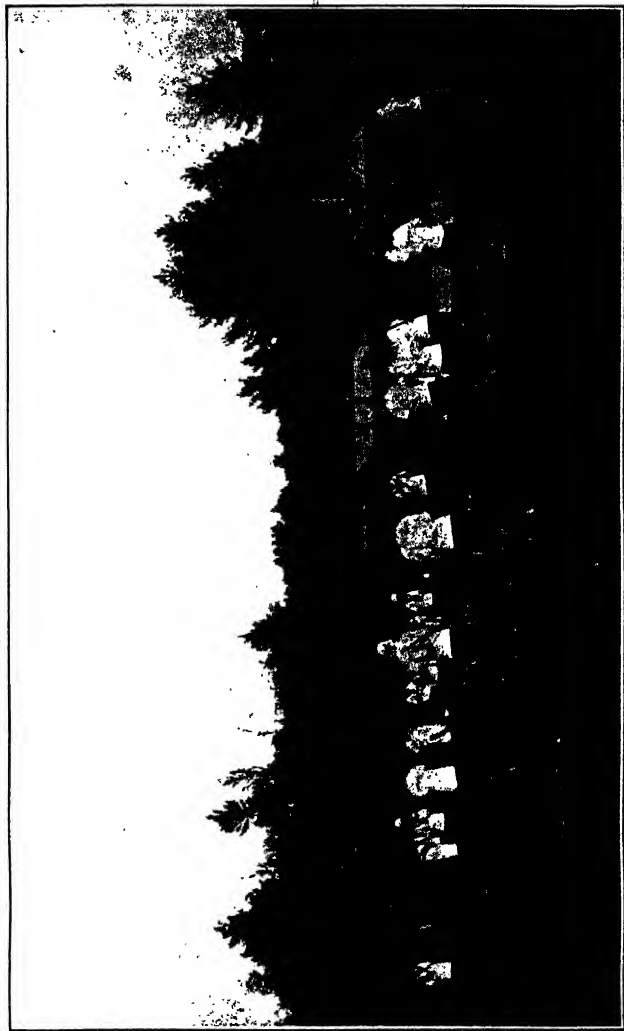
Volley Ball. — Volley ball has great advantages over any game that we have previously had. In the first place, it is a thoroughly good team game. In Washington, where we introduced basket ball and volley ball into the playgrounds at the same time, we found that we could get four or five teams in volley ball as easily as we could get one team in basket ball.

The skill of the game consists in passing the ball from player to player on your side until you can knock it into an open space on the other side. Sometimes the ball will be passed back and forth over the net twenty times without its ever touching the floor or ground, something which rarely happens in tennis, which is a similar game without the team combinations. The net is seven feet and a half high, and the ball is often twenty feet in the air. It is the best corrective we have for the round and stooped shoulders and the flat chest so often engendered in the schoolroom and office and on the farm. One has to keep his head up and shoulders back in order to play the game. It would be hard to devise in the gymnasium any better series of movements to straighten out the shoulders and stretch out the chest than the natural movements in playing the game. There is also a certain exhilaration that comes from the mere fact that the head is held high and the glance is directed upward.

Another great advantage that volley ball has is that it is equally well adapted for play out-of-doors or in a gymnasium. It is usually played out-of-doors during the warmer parts of the year and in the gymnasium in winter, but it is a type of game that may well be played out-of-doors all the year round.

The game is peculiarly adapted to the city because it is more economical of space than any other team game. The court is only half the area of the basket-ball court, and on this space twice as many players may have a good game, so that it requires only one fourth as much space for each player. The ball is soft and light ; it does not break windows or hurt passers-by. The game can be played in the back yard, on a vacant lot, or in almost any kind of school yard.

There is room for thirty-five courts in volley ball on an acre



VOLLEY BALL, SARGENT CAMP, PETERBORO, N. H.

of ground ; or, in other words, seven hundred children may play the game each hour on an acre. But it is probably better to allow a little more room so as to have only thirty courts to the acre, thus providing for from four hundred to six hundred players an hour according to the number of players on a side. At six hundred players per hour, it would be possible for each of thirty-six hundred children to have one hour's play during a six-hour school day, or to give eighteen thousand players one hour a week on an acre of ground. These numbers suppose that the game is played with ten on a side. If it is played with five on a side, of course there would be only half as many players. A fifteenth of an acre would provide for two courts, one for girls and one for boys, and it would thus be possible to give a class of forty a regular period in volley ball on almost any school yard. This would permit two hundred forty children to play during a six-hour school day. Volley ball may be played in the yard all winter, as the wearing of mittens is no great disadvantage.

Volley ball is a very inexpensive game. A couple of slender posts, and a ball, costing all together four or five dollars, are all that are required. This is considerably less than half of the expense for basket ball.

Perhaps the greatest advantage of volley ball is its age range. Children will not play basket ball much before they are thirteen, and they will discontinue the game in the early twenties. On the other hand, they will begin to play volley ball at nine or ten and continue to play until they are seventy. During a number of winters I have given a playground course in Dr. Sargent's gymnasium in Cambridge. There are four clubs of Harvard professors who come over to the gymnasium twice a week to play a modified game of volley ball. The youngest

man on any of the teams looks to be fifty, and several of the men must be nearly seventy. Almost the only game outside of tennis that is being played by college faculties is volley ball. Practically the only game that the business men are playing in the Y. M. C. A. gymnasiums about the country are volley ball and indoor baseball.

Volley ball can be graduated to the strength by lowering the net or putting in more players. It can be made more strenuous by raising the net, increasing the size of the court, or reducing the number of players. Basket ball, the only other team game that we have been playing, until recently, that could be played in a small space, is a violent game, having long periods of very intense activity with practically no relief. It is a greater strain upon the heart and lungs even than football. There are many boys and girls who ought not to play basket ball; but volley ball is safe for nearly every one.

Unlike basket ball, volley ball has no element of personal encounter in it. In volley ball, the players stay on their own side; there is no "rough house" to guard against.

In volley ball the girls may play against the boys or with them. It may be said that it is not best for the girls and boys to play together. Certainly the practice in the city schools and in the public playgrounds is to give the girls a play space that is separate from that of the boys. It is not a good thing for girls and boys to loaf about together, but there are no moral dangers that come out of vigorous play together. There are few things that will do more to establish a healthy relationship between them than such games in which they may be almost equally successful.

Indoor Baseball. — "Indoor baseball" is a very bad name, as the game is played outdoors more than it is indoors. It is

sometimes called playground baseball, but this is no better name than the other.

The advantages of the game are similar to those of volley ball. It requires very little space. It can be played indoors in winter, and outdoors the rest of the year. The ball is soft and does not break windows or injure passers-by. It can be played by girls as well as boys, and they will both continue to play it long after it has become unpleasant to throw a ball across the large diamond, to run so far, or to catch the hard ball. This has not been altogether realized by the American public at present, but it is in fact an excellent game for people from thirty to sixty years of age, who have a love for the old game but have begun to find it too strenuous.

Probably at least ninety per cent of our school yards are large enough for indoor baseball. It will require a tenth of an acre for twenty players or a fifth of an acre for a class of forty. One diamond for girls and one for boys, would thus provide during a six-hour school day for the play of six classes or two hundred and forty pupils. Of course all of the classes will not contain exactly forty pupils, but a few players more or less do not make much difference in this game. Some of the girls will not be in condition to play, there will be some absences, and the tennis courts may well take the surplus.

Both indoor baseball and volley ball are peculiarly adapted to school use. Many cities where there are no gymnasiums, have recently introduced physical training. The chief result in not a few places has been a few minutes in the classroom each day given to listless calisthenics which have not furnished to the children exercise, recreation, or fresh air. Volley ball and indoor baseball show the way to a system of practical training in a system without gymnasiums or

athletic fields. They are played by the girls as well as the boys, and they can be carried on in almost any sort of school yard. I suppose that the number of teams in these games is doubling every year; but educators are only beginning to realize dimly their significance. There are, however, many school systems in which they are being systematically introduced. I found there were from three to five teams in indoor baseball among the girls in every school in Houston, Tex., and in Kalamazoo, Mich., there are from five to twelve teams in volley ball in each school. I happen to know about these cities, but I am sure there are very many more, where the same thing has been done. Almost any school yard will furnish room for two volley ball or indoor baseball grounds. The play should come out of the regular school time, just as does any other period of physical training. If the children tend to be noisy and disturb the school, the knowledge that noisy play will lose them the privilege will be a sufficient check.

These games offer excellent physical exercise that is adapted to conditions and that will cost very little, almost nothing as compared with the cost of building gymnasiums. On the other hand, they are offering a preparation for the future that is quite as real as that of the common school subjects. Recreation is a part of life and an increasing part of it. It is no less necessary for the school to prepare for the right use of leisure than for the work to come. The school must see that increasing leisure does not mean increasing dissipation.

Ability to play games well is a real accomplishment no less than skill at the piano or violin. No boy or girl should be sent out into our modern overstimulated and oversedentary life without an enthusiasm for one or two good games as a



SOCCER FOOTBALL, SARGENT CAMP, PETERBORO, N. H.



HOCKEY, SARGENT CAMP, PETERBORO, N. H.

physical and moral safeguard and we should not allow any girl or boy to graduate from our elementary schools, much less from our high schools or colleges, who cannot play volley ball and indoor baseball fairly well.

Tether Ball. — Tether ball has great advantages as a game for school yards. It can be put into almost any unused corner where there would not be room for another game, as it takes only about a square rod for the court. It is very much more vigorous than tennis, as one must return a ball that is batted oftentimes with all the might by a player not more than ten feet away. It keeps the shoulders back and the head up, and oftentimes the player must jump as high as he can in order to reach the ball. It is played by both boys and girls and during all seasons of the year. As the game is so vigorous, it is usually best to play with teams of three on a side and to let the players on each side serve in succession. It is, however, an expensive game, as the balls are used up rapidly and the player is likely to break his racket by striking the pole. It usually costs about a dollar a week per pole for this game where it is used constantly. An acre of ground will provide for three hundred and twenty players with two on a side, or nine hundred and sixty players with three on a side; so it is perhaps more economical of space than any other organized game of a similar nature.

Basket Ball. — Basket ball is the game most commonly played at present in school yards by older children. Nevertheless, it is not as well adapted to their needs as the games already mentioned. It is not played much by children before they are thirteen years of age. Girls and boys play by different rules, so that they cannot play together. In the country schools, there are seldom enough older boys or girls to play.

Basket ball is the most violent strain on the heart of any game that we know, because the playing is almost continuous. If the game is to be played in the elementary schools where the pupils have not been examined, the halves should not be more than ten minutes. Basket ball has the elements of personal encounter in it, and often provokes rough play and quarrels. A class cannot well be taken out to play basket ball, as there are always a number who are not strong enough to play and only ten can take part in a game. This would make four grounds necessary to have a class of forty play as a regular exercise and most school grounds do not have that much space, as the ground thirty-five by seventy feet is nearly twice as large as the volley ball ground.

Baseball, Soccer Football, and Hockey. — Baseball is not well adapted to city conditions or adult life, but it is our national game and offers a wonderful training in resourcefulness, sportsmanship, and good judgment. Every boy should learn to play, if possible, as a part of his education. Adults require about two acres of ground for a baseball diamond, but elementary boys can get along very comfortably on an acre, and often play on a field that is less than half an acre. Consequently it is not impossible to have real baseball on these small grounds, provided the diamond is properly fitted into the ground so as to minimize the danger to windows and to the other children. An acre of baseball ground will provide (with an umpire and score keeper) for twenty players an hour or one hundred twenty players during a six-hour school day. This would be rather more boys than there would be in the six upper classes, which would contain practically all the boys of baseball age. The same ground would be ample for soccer football in the fall and hockey or skating in the winter.

Tennis. — A tenth of an acre of ground devoted to tennis will allow four children to play each hour, twenty-four each day, and a hundred and twenty a week. Tennis might well be reserved for surplus players from the other games. As tennis is a game of both the spring and the fall, and the children are likely to come over to play more or less on Saturday if the facilities are furnished, this should provide fairly well for tennis. It might be well to have two tennis courts instead of one, thus providing for eight players each hour and two hundred and forty players each week.

Less Organized Games. — Besides the games described there should be provision for the games of the little children and the less organized games, such as captain ball, dodge ball, prisoner's base, and many others. The rules for these games may be found in the appendix.

Rules for Games. — Any one who will study the athletic guide for any of our games will soon be convinced that these rules were intended for professional players and not for children. The rules presuppose the professional umpire and the grandstand full of spectators. In Germany the Association for the Promotion of Folk and Child Play has issued several hundred thousands of books of rules for the common games of the children. It seems to me little less than a national disgrace that we have left to the athletic supply houses the making of the rules of our children's games. These rules are too complicated, so that school children cannot understand them and they are not designed, in general, to secure social and educational results, but a spectacle. Is it anything less than a scandal, that the only book of rules that we have for volley ball makes it one of the conditions of playing the game that "The Spalding Official Ball shall be used"? One

can but ask himself, Do our American games belong to the supply houses?

Skating. — As soon as the weather becomes cold enough, the ball field or some other level area should be banked up slightly and flooded for skating. Outdoor sports need more encouragement in the winter than they do at any other season, because the tendency is then to stay in the house. The outdoor air has a tonic effect that is needed. Skating is about the only winter sport that can be maintained in a plain city, unless special artificial slides for coasting are built. Every boy and girl should be required to learn to skate, and regular periods should be assigned for skating, ice hockey, and other similar games.

Swimming. — A swimming pool ought to be a part of the equipment of every elementary school, because this is the time when there is greatest interest in swimming, and when swimming is most easily learned. It is a part of the child's getting control of himself, which is on much the same plane as learning to walk. Swimming offers also the greatest possible utilization of a small area. Two thousand square feet of water will have five times the use of an equal area devoted to play. The swimming pool will also be one of the greatest helps in making the school a social center at night.

Excursions. — Oftentimes the classes which have the last period in the afternoon should go off on a hike, which might occupy two hours or more in the spring and summer. However, a hike, merely for the sake of hiking, is a mistake, and there should always be some definite purpose in view, which will combine both instruction and pleasure. There are many such trips that may be taken from almost any school that will reveal more in an hour than the children will remem-

ber and that will be significant than will several hours spent in the study of books. This, of course, implies that the trip has been planned beforehand.

The Boy Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls. — Both these organizations are giving a more fundamental training in the virtues and accomplishments of youth than the school. One hour each week or more should be found for each of these activities, unless the young people should elect to have their meetings in the evenings or on Saturdays in order to have more time.

Rainy Days. — If the suggested curriculum of play has been adopted and there is no gymnasium, the rainy day might seem to be a problem. There are four possible solutions to this difficulty. The children may use the playroom, if there is one. They may have games in the classroom. They may have a study period, or the school may run on a five-hour schedule.

The Minimum Requirement of Ground. — Almost nothing can be said of the school playgrounds of this country that will be true of all. They vary from nothing at all to grounds like those of Gary. At the schools that have been built without grounds the children are mere trespassers upon the streets and upon adjoining lots in any case, and sooner or later these schools will have to be given up. A committee report, recently issued by the Board of Education for England, recommends that all schools that are to receive public funds be required to furnish a minimum of twenty square feet of playground per child. Our state departments might well make such a minimum requirement in regard to state funds for nearly all our cities. But there are many of our city schools that even now have grounds ample to carry out the series of athletics and games that I have described.

In order to maintain the curriculum outlined, the following areas will be required: baseball with soccer football, using the same ground, in the fall and hockey in the late fall and early spring, and skating in winter, will require one acre of ground. Indoor baseball will require one fifth of an acre and tennis and volley ball one tenth of an acre each. Basket ball will take one twentieth of an acre, or for the four games four twentieths of an acre. The balance of the two acres would be ample for the running track, the swimming pool, and the play of the little children. If we left out the baseball and football, one acre would provide for the other games. But we have really provided for more players than there will be in a sixteen-room school. If all the facilities are used in the spring, for instance, the players will be divided as follows, baseball twenty, indoor baseball forty, volley ball forty, basket ball ten, and tennis four. The organized game space alone will thus provide for one hundred and fourteen players an hour or six hundred and eighty-four during a six-hour school day. If the baseball field is omitted, somewhat less than a half acre will provide for ninety-four players an hour or five hundred and eighty-four players during a six-hour school day. This is certainly twice as many children as will be old enough to play these games at the ordinary sixteen-room school and may be three times as many. Moreover, if we add to these numbers forty pupils in the swimming pool and twenty pupils at the running track and jumping pit, we shall provide for one hundred and fifty-four or one hundred and seventy-four players an hour, according as the baseball field is included or not in the plan. This would provide fairly well for one class in baseball, one class in volley ball, one class in the swimming pool, and one class split up

among the athletic facilities and the other games, tennis, basket ball, and the like, each hour. The space for the little children would easily provide for four classes more. Thus it would be possible for eight classes to use a playground of not more than an acre in area each hour and all to have the space needed for their play, provided baseball and football are eliminated. In other words, it would be possible under this arrangement to have excellent play for two thousand or more children on an acre of ground. The rule of the English preparatory and public school is that the ground must be large enough, so that all the pupils can play at once. They have their play from three to six, or thereabouts, each afternoon. This establishes a habit of playing every day at a certain time. It is the best possible arrangement, but it is quite impossible for the American public schools, because these are day schools mostly located in the cities, where large grounds may not be obtained. One acre used six times is equal to six acres used once. The only solution for a minimum playground is a maximum use. However, it will not be possible for the ground to be much smaller than an acre if there are only six hundred or even one hundred children. The small school cannot make as economical use of its space as a large school. The requirement of so many feet per pupil is not a proper basis for the selection of a school ground. If there are only eighteen boys, they cannot well play baseball on less than an acre, and in that case, it would take two thousand four hundred and twenty square feet per pupil. An acre is a minimum size for a playground both on account of the play and the lighting of the school building, etc. For every child more than five hundred, about forty square feet should be added to this area of one acre.

This play cannot fail also to improve the work and spirit of the school. It would be justified as social training alone. Most of the periods might be for more than an hour, as the fifteen-minute recess might be added to the period both for the class before and the class after recess, both morning and afternoon, and it might well be arranged so that the classes that came the first period in the morning or the afternoon or the last period in the afternoon could lengthen their regular matched games from these periods. This they would be sure to do if the play were made exciting.

Play secures Real Efficiency. — It will be seen that under this arrangement, the time which is ordinarily worse than wasted by the children on the streets has been utilized for their physical and social welfare, that the expensive city land has been used not during two fifteen-minute recesses and allowed to lie idle the rest of the day, but all through the school day every part of the ground has been put to a very nearly maximum use. The play hour has greatly relieved the strain of the school day both for the teacher and the pupils and there will be many less breakdowns of pupils and neurasthenic teachers. It has given each child the hour of vigorous play in the open air each day, which is the minimum requirement for health and physical development. In three or four years, it would build up the strength and very nearly double the vital capacity of the children. This playground secures the attendance of all the children. As the children are the regular pupils of the school, they are known and responsible. They cannot afford to steal the baseballs and smash the apparatus. The problem of the loose boy and the loose girl and the corner loafer and of the profanity and obscenity will be very nearly eliminated. There probably will be no parents

who will object to their children playing with the other children on the school playground. It has not been necessary for the pupils to make a separate trip to the playground, and, as the children using any particular portion of the ground at the same time are of approximately the same age, it is possible to have permanent teams and run a series of contests which will be exciting and highly educational. Where all the children use the playground at the same time at the recesses, it is too crowded for play, and usually nine tenths of the children loaf about. If the ground is maintained after school as a playground, not more than one quarter of the children will get the training, and probably for less than half an hour on an average.

Who shall have Charge? — In the English preparatory and public schools, the regular masters play with the boys and organize the sports, though there are also professional teachers of cricket. In the German schools also the regular masters organize the play of the pupils. If the play period in the elementary school is taken out of the school time, it would seem that it ought to be organized by the regular teachers, and that they should be required to take the training that is necessary in order that they may have charge. If, on the other hand, it is added to the school time, a special playground teacher should be employed. In an elementary school with six hundred pupils, there should be two or three classes in the yard all the time. It would certainly be wise to give all the little children two hours a day and to employ two play leaders for the yard, though it would doubtless be possible to get along with one.

The Expense of Organizing Play. — Many are sure to object to the plan proposed on the ground of the expense. If each

class gets one hour out of a six-hour day for organized play, and the play teacher has only one class, this will require that one sixth of the teachers shall be play teachers, or, if a play teacher has charge of two classes in the yard at once, this will require that one twelfth of the teachers shall be play teachers. If, however, the school is organized on the departmental plan, as are the schools of Gary, and as is always the case in the high schools and more and more in the elementary schools, this will not necessarily mean any extra expense. If the school is not organized departmentally, these extra teachers will add five or ten per cent to the expense of the school system. Physical education and the establishment of health are undoubtedly the prime considerations during the elementary period, and this expense is justified by this fact, but there are other elements in the problem.

All progressive cities are either already providing organized play for the children or they are about to do so. If play is to be provided in the time after school, it will take six times as large a ground as it will where the play is distributed over six hours of the day. In other words, a typical school of sixteen rooms will need, not one, but six acres of playground in order that the children may play after school. It will also require six times as many play leaders as it required where the attendance was distributed over six school hours. This will cost somewhat more than the salaries of the physical directors who give their entire time to it during the school day, and of course the services of the after-school teachers will be less expert than those of the professional physical directors who are making this their business. This arrangement will require five acres more land, which will probably cost on an average, in cities of twenty-five thousand or over, ten

thousand dollars an acre or fifty thousand dollars in all. The interest and sinking fund on this would probably amount to three thousand dollars a year, which would be ample to pay for the supervision of the playgrounds on the other plan, and the money that is spent in after-school supervision thus appears a pure extra and unnecessary expense.

It may be said that the afternoon playground will not require so many play leaders as has been suggested. This is doubtless true, but this is because the after-school playground is not more than ten or twenty per cent efficient in use. Under the present arrangement we may pay less, but that is because we are not doing what we set out to do, really to furnish play to the children. If we can afford to pay a thousand dollars for the organization of the play of six hundred children, we can equally well afford to pay three thousand dollars for the organization of the play of eighteen hundred children. The most fundamental right of the child is the right to play. Play is essential to his physical, social, moral, and intellectual development. It should be furnished to all children. The method I have described is the cheapest possible method, both in the land used and in the cost of supervision. It is also much the most satisfactory in its results. In cities like New York it is almost the only possible solution of the play problem.

How shall we use our Municipal Playgrounds? — The organized municipal playground is found only in this country to any considerable extent. There are municipal playgrounds in English and Scotch cities, but they are in charge of caretakers, and there is no attempt to organize play upon them. They are places to play rather than playgrounds in the modern sense. There are park-like playgrounds in Germany, but nearly all of them belong to turnvereins or to groups of schools.

So far as I am aware, there are no municipal playgrounds in the American sense in Germany. In order that a playground may be used economically and well, it is necessary that it should be used during the school time as well as at other times, and that it should become a part of the plan of education. Nearly all of the playgrounds used by the German schools are at a distance, but they are no less school playgrounds on this account. The space is definitely assigned to classes and specific games. There is no reason why the American schools should not do the same. I believe that such playgrounds as Seward Park and Hamilton Fish and the others in lower New York should be reconstructed and turned over to the schools that surround them to use during school hours. The children are so numerous in lower New York that there would be plenty of them attending the schools not more than two or three blocks away to fill any of the existing playgrounds. If New York felt that it was best to inaugurate the departmental system on the Gary plan in order to provide for this play, this would be the easiest solution of her overcrowded school buildings, and if she felt that it was necessary to lengthen the school day in order to find time for this play, this would be no disadvantage, because there is no place for the children when they are not at school. For the sake of the children the city should contrive in some way, to take care of them from eight A.M. to five P.M. every day. This would give these municipal playgrounds probably ten times their present use and also a vastly better use. It is almost the only way that the children of lower New York can ever have the opportunity to play.

The Gary Play Plan better suited to other Cities than to Gary. — There are three schoolgrounds in Gary that are

fifteen acres or more in area. Gary is almost the only city school system in the country where it would be possible for all the children in the school to play anything worth while on the grounds at once. In a city where the facilities are so inadequate to needs at best, as is the case in New York, it is almost a crime to have also a minimum use of these facilities, such as New York achieves by her present methods. The facilities are not only inadequate in New York, but there is no place for the children when they are not in school. It would be tremendously to the advantage of the city to organize the activities of the children in such a way that every possible play area would be in use continuously from eight o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night. The Gary plan is much better suited to New York City than it is to Gary.

How may the Land be Obtained ? — When we consider that many of our schools are now built into business or tenement blocks with no playgrounds whatever, any suggestion of play for these schools must seem like a joke. There are two methods that may be followed. These schools may be given up and relocated where ground can be secured more cheaply. It is probable that a school that has been built without a playground also represents the ideals of the past century in other things, and that it will be found to be without a room for domestic science or manual training, without a kindergarten room or auditorium, almost certainly without a gymnasium or a swimming pool, and very likely without sanitary toilets as well. To abandon such a building is a manifest duty of the community in any case. Children cannot well be trained for the Twentieth Century with a Nineteenth Century equipment. But, in any case, the physical welfare of the child is the first consideration of any rational system of education,

and the fact that no provision has been made for play or physical development is a sufficient reason in itself for the abandoning of any school. Some six or seven school sites have been abandoned in Houston, Tex., for this reason during the last two years.

A second method that may be followed is to secure a vacant piece of ground, like a municipal playground, as near to the school as possible.

In locating or relocating schools, the ground can be secured either by placing the schools next to the parks where they can use the park ground or by placing them in the suburbs. It is no great disadvantage, especially where there are street cars that may be used on rainy days, for a child to live a mile or even more from a school, though it might be necessary, in that case, to make a separate provision for the kindergarten and first grade.

However, the main relief must come in two directions, by securing the maximum use of a minimum ground through putting play into the curriculum and using the ground all through the day and evening, and by introducing games that employ a large number of players on a small amount of space. We have seen what advantages volley ball, indoor baseball, and long ball have in this direction. Something might be done, also, through reviving the old game of Rugby and association football, which were often played with fifty or more players on a side.

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CHAPTER XI

ATHLETICS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

SEEMINGLY our high school and college athletics are the top story or spire of the play movement, but, in ideals, they have often represented the basement. They are the perfect proof of the need of the supervision of play, for they have shown beyond all question that, even with students of high school and college grade, play cannot be trusted to run itself; and that success, in the realm of sport no less than in other realms of human endeavor, lies in competent direction. The problem has been to secure the general physical development and recreation of the student body and the effective training of social conduct through sportsmanship. But our athletics, under student guidance, have overtrained a few specialists, often to their harm, while the student body, and especially the girls whose need is greatest, have been fairly crowded off the field.

Play is a more or less conventionalized form of early activities, following closely the type of the hunt and the chase. Athletics represent the old racial struggle in a yet simpler form. Every savage must be an athlete. He must be able to run fast and far, to jump or vault over fallen trees or across brooks or ravines, to throw missiles strongly and accurately, and to strike down his game or enemy with a club. It was through the urgency of this struggle that the dormant intellect was first aroused and latent energies were brought into

action. Probably, in like manner, even to-day, athletics can do more to arouse an inert intelligence and to tap the deeper springs of energy than the school can possibly do. At no later period in life may fame be won in so short a time as on the athletic field. Nowhere else is the social stimulus of a common sentiment and enthusiasm so powerfully felt. It was through this struggle that virility and aggressiveness was developed in the race. It is largely through this modified struggle that manliness and aggressiveness is developed in the individual boy. In a large way athletics are dealing with higher values than the school is even contemplating in its courses.

In Persia, Greece, Rome, and England, athletics have been required as a part of the training of the gentleman, in the belief, apparently, that it was a fundamental form of education. In this country, on the other hand, we have not sought to train all to moderate accomplishment, but rather the strong to excellence. We have not sought to train the strong to a symmetrical strength, but rather to surpassing achievement in some one sport. Every one is agreed that this is not as it should be.

The Coaches. — If we look at the social results of our athletics, there has not been much more to say. The athletics have been under the domination of coaches, who have been hired to win games. They have not been looking for social or educational results but for victories. The men who have been brought into this field have often been men of narrow training and few if any social interests, and they have frequently promoted a type of rowdy play that has disgraced the American high school and college. I was talking a short time ago with the manager of the Sears, Roebuck firm, of Chicago. He said: "We never employ a man from certain

well-known schools. We have found that the athletics at these schools are crooked, and dishonesty gets into the blood of the men, so that they cannot be depended on in business." While this is not generally realized, it is certainly true of the athletics of hundreds of schools in this country to-day. On the other hand, if we look at the other side of the picture, we find that athletics offer the easiest way to teach a high conception of courtesy and honor. There is no other means of even similar value in developing a feeling of good comradeship in the student body. Can we afford to throw away these great opportunities, and allow coaches to train picked athletes to be ruffians and cheats instead? Conditions are improving, but no existing reform strikes to the root of the matter.

In England, football is made compulsory on moral grounds, while in America it is often forbidden for the same reason. In England, to say a man is a true sportsman means that he is, above all, a gentleman. In America, it is to be feared that there are many great games played in which the laws of courtesy are grossly violated. When the Englishman speaks of football and cricket as great moral forces, he means, of course, English football. When the American speaks of football as brutalizing and forbids his son to play, he means the American game. The difference does not lie in the game, however, but in the fact that the English game is taught from the very first as carefully as are Greek and Latin. The English game does teach courtesy and sportsmanship. It is a great moral force, because the boys learn their method of play from the masters. And the masters make these things essential parts of the game.

Sportsmanship and Honor. — Athletics, in general, belong to the teens. They are a direct descendant from the chivalry

and tournaments of the Middle Ages. This was the one conspicuously successful historic method for the teaching of honor and truthfulness, and courtesy and regard for woman. Yet of the unsupervised and unumpired baseball games among boys probably at least half break up in a squabble, and, of the ones that are umpired, the task of the umpire is not often easy or pleasant. We have scarcely a rudimentary sense that a man commits a foul if no one sees it but himself; that the man himself should be a better judge than the umpire in most cases as to whether or not he is "out." We should have frequent cases of men correcting the umpire to the effect that they were "out" rather than "safe," that the umpire ought always to be able to refer a difficult case to the player, to know whether or not he was touched. A fine example of this spirit is given in the following incident from the February *Atlantic*.

"It was the end of the ninth. One team led by a single run, and the other with two men out had two men on bases. Then the batter knocked a Homeric fly to the remotest field. The two runners dashed home. Far to the right, close to the outer fence, a fielder, still famous in song and legend, flew toward the ball. Could he reach it? Not a groan broke the stillness. He is close to it! Ye gods of the nine innings, he has it! No! He's down! His cleat has tripped him. Over and over again he rolls. Now he's up, and there, clutched in his right hand, is the ball.

"Did he catch it? Did he hold it? No mortal umpire could ever tell. A roar of protest went up from the benches on the left. With all the dignity of the National League upon him, the umpire waved to the rocking bleachers to be quiet, so that his decision might be heard. But that decision

was never given. Sullivan, captain of the team at the bat — Sullivan was a mill hand before he climbed the heights of Olympus — understood the amateur spirit. Disregarding the umpire, he ran toward the incoming fielder and in an agony of prolonged suspense cried aloud, 'Honest to God, Chick, did you catch it?'

"And Chick, the hero, answered, 'Honest to God, Sully, I did.'

"And so the game was won in the days before coaching was made perfect."

It must be reasonably evident that any system of sport where an omnipresent umpire is necessary, where individual players take advantage of the rules and their opponents whenever they can, is giving a fundamental training in dishonesty, a training that is more effective than dishonesty in business in proportion as the interest is more intense, and the emotional nature is active as well as the intellectual and physical. Where is the courtesy due to opponents, the noble scorn of taking advantage, of anything unworthy a knight, that characterized the days of chivalry? We are not to think that the youth of to-day are less worthy. We know that they are a far nobler type than the medieval knight. But chivalry was the flower of the Middle Ages, and the type of athletics that has prevailed too often in the American high school and college has been the lowest expression of the social life of these institutions.

The trouble has been that neither the boys themselves nor their teachers have realized the meaning of sportsmanship or what was required by it. Baseball, football, and basket ball are the applied ethics of the school, but neither the students nor the faculty seem to have realized the fact. If we

are to secure adequate results, and the masters are not to take an active part in the games on the field, the schools must introduce courses on the ethics of sport.

The Glory of the School. — The only athletics there have been in most schools have been of the intercollegiate variety, and the training that has been required has oftentimes been so severe that it is a question if these events can properly be called "sport" at all. They are carried on, not for the pleasure or profit of the individual, but for the glory of the school. It is a case of intense specialization in sport. The training that should have gone to a thousand students is concentrated on the eleven or the nine, with the result that they are often overtrained. The athletes have specialized in the forms of sport in which they were strongest, often to their harm. Yet we all realize that there is no object in these victories which are sought through specialization. It is not well for the high school student to make himself one sided by training only his strong points. As Dr. Sargent has said, "What our American students of to-day should strive for is neither to be victorious athletes, prize gymnasts, nor champion strong men, but to have some of the strength of the strong man, some of the alertness and endurance of the athlete, and some of the grace and skill of the gymnast, all combined with the poise and dignity of a gentleman."

Easing the Sex Strain. — The fundamental fact of the high school period is the ripening function of sex.

Sex is not adjusted to modern life. Puberty comes at thirteen or fourteen, while marriage must be delayed for ten or twenty years, for the good of the race. This is not so among primitive peoples. It was not so fifty years ago in this country. This means that there are ten to twenty years for men

that are given to abuse, dissipation, or a sex strain that is liable to color all the thought. How to ease the pressure of these conditions is one of the great social questions of our time. Prostitution has arisen in response to it. But prostitution is one of the saddest facts of life. Promiscuity and general immorality have never met the approval of Christian civilizations although they have been much practiced by them. Abuse destroys self-respect and wastes the energies of life. Continence is apparently above the standard or ability of the average young man.

This is not a question that admits of an offhand solution, but there are certain known helps which we seem to have forgotten. Among these are open air and exercise. If one sits around in a heated room all the time, the sex impulse is more insistent than it is when he has an abundance of open-air life. Athletics stand in both a preventive and positive relationship to sex questions. They use the sex energy directly and so ease the strain. They use the time that is often devoted to obscene gossip or experiences; they promote a healthful fatigue and sound sleep that does not seek other adventures. On the positive side, athletics strengthen the will to resist, give assurance and self-control, and build up sex strength and virility and femininity.

Dr. Hall in "Adolescence" says, in speaking of play, "Activity may exalt the spirit almost to the point of ecstasy, and the physical pleasure of it diffuses, irradiates, and mitigates the sexual stress just at the age when its premature localization is most deleterious." Again: "The zest of it (play) satisfies and vents the strong passion of youth for intense erethic states. Crime in our great cities is to a great extent simply a question of athletics. The question of play-

grounds is not merely the question of play, health, and strength, but it is the question of virtue as well."

Winfield Hall speaks of athletics as a secondary sex activity, especially while women or girls are looking on, causing the secretion of the spermatin and the development of virility. Ellen Key finds in athletics the greatest help to continence in adolescence. Professor Freud says, "As everybody knows, modern cultural education utilizes sport to a great extent in order to turn away the youth from sexual activity; it would be more proper to say that it replaces the sexual pleasure by motion pleasure and forces the sexual activity back upon one of its auto-erotic components." Athletics have always developed a virile type of man, whom the ladies have been wont to admire. They are almost the only known relief from this strain to many young fellows in the teens and early twenties. This is said to have been the cause of making athletics compulsory in the English public and preparatory schools. It is the strongest reason for making them compulsory anywhere.

An empty mind, in the teens, is sure to be filled with sex thoughts, and the best way to exclude them is to fill it so full of other interests that there is no room for them. There is no other enthusiasm that seizes upon the youth with quite such an intensity, and it is a great safeguard merely as a new and vital interest.

These facts indicate a new value of athletics for all adolescent young people, and even for not a few athletic spectacles where women may look on. We want to prevent dissipation. We want to develop the strong masculine virtues in the men, the courage, the determination, the energy, and the will which such a training can give. We want to develop the feminine virtues in the women.

Dean Briggs, of Harvard, says, in speaking of the temptation of students: "Football begins with or before the college year. Training for football means early hours, clean life, constant occupation for body and mind. Breach of training means ostracism. That this game tides many a freshman over a great danger, by keeping him healthily occupied, I have come firmly to believe. It supplies what President Eliot calls 'a new and effective motive for resisting all the sins which weaken or corrupt the body.' "

The Grounds of High Schools. — Our high schools are, for the most part, centrally located in our cities and are often almost entirely without grounds. The games played by high school students, on the other hand, are the games that require the largest amount of space. The games and the grounds do not fit together. The students are sometimes able to secure grounds in the parks, but they usually cannot depend on these when they wish to use them most. Often they must rent a field at a high rate. In many of our newer high schools, however, good-sized grounds have been secured and a systematic organization of the play is possible, but it is impossible that athletics should fill the place which is their due unless they can be put into the program of the schools, and guided by the best leadership that the schools can furnish.

Compulsory Athletics in High Schools. — The question of compulsory athletics in high schools is only a question of land and interest. The high schools already have the departmental system of instruction. It is easy to send a class out upon the playground at any period, and, for the most part, the schools have physical trainers who can take charge of the play. Of course the high schools need larger grounds than most of them have, but it is comparatively easy to get at

least ten times as much play on the existing grounds as most of them are getting at present. High schools should either be located in the suburbs or on the edge of a park, or the Gary plan of having all the grades together should be adopted. For all new schools at least five acres should be secured for play, and more than this if the school is large. With a playground of this size it will not be possible for all the students to play at once, as is usually the case in the English public school; but if play is organized into the curriculum, it will be possible for each student to have an hour of open-air sport each day. It seems to me that track and field athletics, baseball, association football, hockey, skating, swimming, indoor baseball, volley ball, and tennis should be required of the boys, and that basket ball should be an elective. Indoor baseball, volley ball, hockey, tennis, skating, swimming, and folk dancing should be required for the girls with basket ball as an elective.

Swimming and Gymnastics. — The swimming pool and gymnasium are coming to be a part of the equipment of many of our new high schools, and they should be features of all. The ability to swim is becoming a part of our conception of an education. The gymnasium is necessary for exercise on stormy days and very cold and blustery weather, but we are all agreed that it is better that exercise should be taken out of doors and in the sunlight wherever it is possible.

General Athletics. — It is not necessary that the provision for athletics should take much room. If there is a circular running track, it should be around the ball diamond and without a curb. The sprints, the hurdles, and the jumps require only a narrow strip along the side of the field. In general training, it is doubtful if it would be wise to include the discus,

the hammer throw, or the shot put; the pole vault might well be an elective. Most of the other exercises might be taken by a whole class at once. Swimming and field athletics might well together occupy one period a week. The standard test for high school students should be the basis for promotion in physical training, just as the sportsmanship of the play would furnish the best basis for promotion in "conduct" or "social living" or "practical ethics" or whatever the subject may be called that covers the more vital and fundamental side of the training for life. As I have treated the subject of school athletics with some thoroughness elsewhere, it does not seem necessary to go into details here.

Baseball, Football, Hockey, and Skating.—In a high school of a thousand pupils there will probably be about four hundred and fifty boys and five hundred and fifty girls. If the high school session is five hours long, this will allow one hundred boys to play baseball during the regular school time each day and, counting bad weather, would allow of every high school boy playing baseball once a week, if one baseball ground is furnished, or twice a week if there are two diamonds or four acres of baseball. Two diamonds should really be the minimum for a school of this size. The school would presumably create sufficient interest in the game, so that the diamond would be in use nearly all the time there was daylight.

In the fall this same ground would probably allow the boys to play soccer football three times a week with a little judicious extension of play to after-school time. In the colder weather, it would be ample for the girls and boys to play hockey at least twice a week. If the weather was such as to allow skating, one of the ball fields would be ample for skating for all, and one diamond might be reserved for ice hockey.

I believe that the hour devoted to baseball would be the most valuable time of the week for the boys. Baseball develops the arms and the legs, and especially the lungs and the heart, through its running. The boy who would be a successful ball player must always be able to decide what to do with the ball in a fraction of a second and act upon his decision instantly. The reward of a right decision is immediate in general applause and approval, and the punishment of a wrong decision is just as prompt. Pride, chagrin, vanity, pleasure, and, in short, all the emotions are aroused and brought to maturity. The boy must learn to get on with his fellows, to subordinate himself and take the place in the field even if he does want to pitch, to persist and play harder when the score is against him, to abide by the decisions of the umpire. He must learn to be a good companion and friend and a social and law-abiding member of a child community. After all, what is the training of the head through arithmetic or Latin compared with this all-around training of the individual?

It is absolutely essential to the best results that the same boys continue to play together from day to day. A scrub team never develops loyalty, players, or sportsmanship. It has no reputation to win or lose. The chief danger in compulsory athletics is making a mechanical combination of unmixable elements. Loyalty and permanent teams cannot be secured unless the members are friendly to each other. However, friendship always grows out of play, if the conditions permit of enough play in the beginning to get it started. If there is some social life in the class and some class loyalty, there will probably be no difficulty. Care should be taken to see that all the good players do not get on one team.

Minimum Grounds for High Schools. — It will be seen that we have thus put general athletics, baseball, football, hockey, skating, swimming, tennis, indoor baseball, and volley ball into the curriculum. (See appendix.) To give the free ideal expression and opportunity for all of these games will require for baseball, football, hockey, and skating four acres, for tennis two acres, for indoor baseball one acre, for basket ball one quarter of an acre, and for volley ball one half acre, with one quarter of an acre for a running track, jumping pits, and such apparatus. This would require eight acres of playground altogether for a thousand pupils, but all of these activities could be carried on in five acres by playing baseball, football, and tennis less often and laying the emphasis on the games requiring less space.

We have thus provided the boys with two periods a week at baseball and football. We have provided all the students with two hours a week at hockey in the hockey season and as many hours a week as may be desired for skating. We have provided one hour a week for swimming and general athletics, two hours a week of tennis, four hours a week in indoor baseball, one hour a week in basket ball, and nearly four hours a week in volley ball. Thus in the hockey season, if all of the facilities were to be used, this would provide for thirteen periods a week for each pupil, or two and three fifths as many periods as were demanded, or would allow two thousand six hundred students to get one play period every day, if each facility furnished were to be full all the time. During the baseball and football seasons, however, these facilities would not be sufficient, as the boys would then have four acres of the ground all to themselves. During the cold weather the skating will provide for all, and in places where there is no skating, hockey

may well do the same along with volley ball, which can be played with mittens on in cold weather. At the rate of eight acres of playground for a thousand pupils, this would require three hundred and forty-eight square feet per pupil, or two hundred and twenty-nine square feet on the five-acre basis. This is the minimum that should be accepted for a new high school of a thousand pupils. It will need somewhat more ground per capita if the school is smaller and will not require quite so much per capita if it is larger. But it will be seen that by leaving off baseball and tennis, the older high schools with small grounds can still have a great deal of play that is worth while. They can have volley ball for all every day on a half acre of ground by having six players on a team, and by having ten players on a side, a perfectly satisfactory number, one thousand students may have four periods a week on a quarter of an acre. Regular intercollegiate and interclass athletics have not been disturbed by this schedule of play. There will be the same ground and the same time for them as formerly, but there will be more and better material to choose from, and there is every reason to expect better results in intercollegiate as well as in other sport.

There is one disadvantage in this arrangement. It does not establish a habit of playing every day at a particular time, as the English school does. This is a serious disadvantage, for such time habits are apt to carry over into life. But for our city high schools it is not a question whether the students shall play during the day or after school, but whether they shall play during the day or not play at all. It seems to me that there can be but one answer to this question. All these calculations have been based on a five-hour day, but it would be much simpler to have a six-hour day instead. This would

increase all the facilities of the school one fifth and make five acres on the six-hour basis equal to six on the five-hour basis.

Playgrounds for Private Schools. — The English public school is an aristocratic institution. The American high school is democratic. The English public schools are mostly situated in the small towns, where the boys can see something of nature and play in the open air. We should naturally expect that there would be schools also in America similar to Eton and Harrow. In this we shall not be mistaken. I am not prepared to say just how many such schools there are, but there are certainly twelve, and I doubt not there are others, as at least three of the twelve have been founded recently. These schools charge a high tuition. The registration ranges from one hundred boys in the smallest to about fifteen hundred in the largest. For the most part they are in the East and are situated either in the country or in small towns. They are for the sons of our American aristocracy, and seek to give culture and social graces at least as much as scholarship. Some of them have a limited and exclusive membership. For instance, Groton, which two of the sons of President Roosevelt attended, has a membership limited to one hundred and fifty, and it is said that a boy has to be registered as soon as he is born in order to gain admission when he is twelve or fourteen. In this school, play conditions are almost the same as they are in the public schools of England. Every boy is supposed to take part in athletics, and the masters play with the boys. The school teams are chosen from the masters and pupils indiscriminately according to the excellence of their play.

The following is an extract from a letter by Dr. Moore, the physical instructor :



ICE HOCKEY AT GROTON SCHOOL

"In the fall when the school opens for the year, every boy who is physically able plays football until about the middle of November. There are perhaps a dozen boys who do not get into the game. The fact that a boy is small does not prevent him from playing on some team, for we have, aside from the first and second elevens and substitutes, two clubs, in each of which there are several teams so graded that all may play on one or another team.

"From the end of the football season until the winter holidays, about a month, there is a period which we fill up as regards athletics, in various ways, but we try to have a little rest from the hard play of the football season before our winter gymnastic exercises. Some get up games of association football, or basketball out of doors; we have hare and hounds runs, or anything else which may suggest itself as being novel and desirable.

"In the spring term, the time is given to baseball in about the same way as to football in the fall, but a few boys who are not good at baseball are allowed to row."

Dr. Prentiss, the physical director of the Lawrenceville school, says:

"We have nearly four hundred acres of land. One hundred is given over to a nine-hole golf course. A professional teaches golf and cares for the links, giving all his time in Spring and Fall to it. He not only coaches expert players of the school, but teaches beginners also.

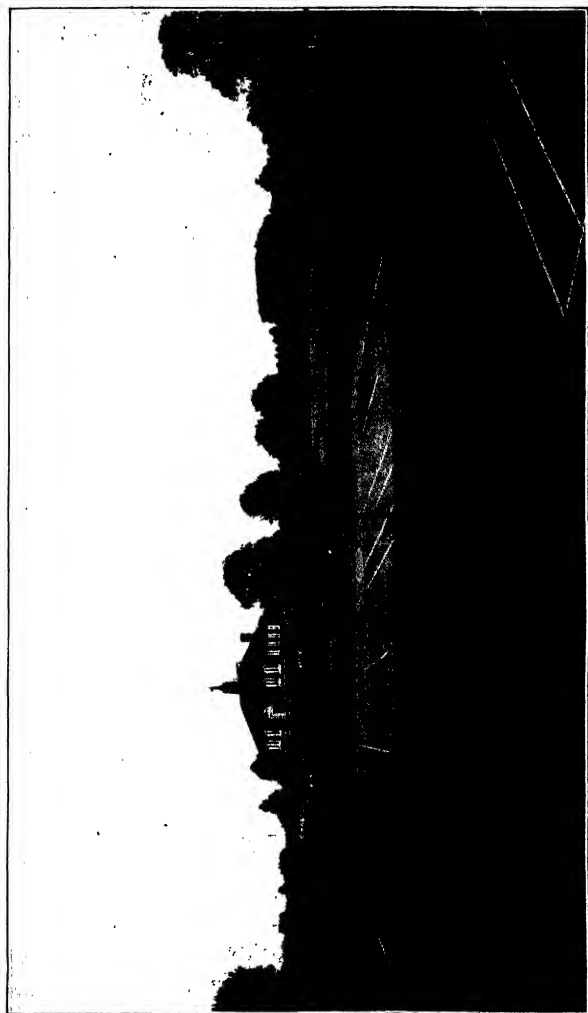
"There are thirty-two tennis courts, clay top, and by payment of a small fee early in the fall, a boy may reserve a place on any court for the school year. Last fall every place on each court was taken.

"There are eight baseball and football fields and a one third of a mile cinder running track.

"Within a few days from the opening of the fall term, a boy must make a choice of one out-of-door sport, golf, tennis, or football, and be actively engaged on the field from 4 to 5.15 P.M. — 4 days a week. This schedule obtains from the beginning of the term up to Thanksgiving.

"After Easter the outdoor schedule is resumed, the sports being golf, tennis, baseball, and track. The proportion of electives was, last fall, golf 84, tennis 104, football 200. In the Spring the proportions are about as follows: golf 100, baseball 120, track 60, tennis 75."

Rowing is a feature at a number of these schools, and at St. Paul's cricket surpasses even football or baseball in popularity. Some of them, as Tome Institute, especially, are heavily endowed. They are situated largely in grounds of great natural beauty and some have buildings far surpassing in attractiveness those of the ordinary college. They represent the high-water mark in play and playgrounds in America, and one can scarcely imagine how conditions could be more ideal. There is ground enough for every boy to play at once and time for every boy to play, the belief of the masters is that he should play, and the rules of the school practically require that he shall play, whether he is strong or weak, whether he is a star on the field or hopeless material for an athlete. The coaching and companionship of the masters is all that he could desire. These schools do not require as many hours of play as the English schools, but the athletic equipment is as good, perhaps better, and most of them have gymnasias which are far superior to those of the English schools. At the present rate of increase, we shall soon, if we have not already, have as many "public school" boys in America as there are in the great public schools of England. In another generation, after tradition and



TENNIS COURTS AND GENERAL ATHLETIC FIELD, LAWRENCEVILLE SCHOOL, N.J.

story have had time to cluster around St. Paul's, and St. Mark's, and Lawrenceville, and the others, they will perhaps come to fill such a place in American life and romance as Eton and Rugby do in England.

Physical Dangers. — The greatest physical danger of play is overstrain. This is greater for the students in the high school than it is anywhere else. The great danger is to the heart. The breaking of an arm or leg is not a serious or lasting disability, but a strained heart may be. The two chief sources of peril are long-distance running and basket ball. Girls often go into this game without having had any strenuous physical exercise, to play by boys' rules and for long halves, and of course without a physical examination. A large percentage of these girls are undoubtedly injured.

I find nothing anywhere to indicate that football is found to be a dangerous game for the small boys at such schools as Lawrenceville. This fact, together with the returns from the English preparatory schools, seems to show that the danger of football for small boys is largely due to the fact that boys are generally not taught the game, and injuries result from improper play, as they do from turning boys loose in a gymnasium without an instructor.

Dr. Sargent of Harvard says, however, that there is great danger of a boy's injuring his heart by hard play at football before he is eighteen. He says a large number of the candidates for the team at Harvard who are rejected are rejected on account of overtraining in preparatory schools.

Athletics in the American College and University. — When we turn to the American university, we find interest in athletics and enthusiasm for them at a fever heat; the successful athlete lionized in school and society; every seat at

our immense new stadiums taken long in advance at high prices at the time of important games and many other phenomena, indicating a general and intense interest in athletic contests; but, on the other hand, we find the number taking part small. However good or bad the training these few receive, it cannot have much effect upon the physical development of the student body.

The training for the crew and for football are both so severe that these so-called sports cease to be play and become serious business during the season of training. They are not carried on for the good of the individual, but for the glory of the school. The individual must sacrifice himself. He must eat at a special table; he must observe his every action to note its effect on his bodily condition. When he plays, he must seek to win for the school at whatever risk to himself. Many find themselves with overtrained bodies and undertrained heads at the end of the year.

According to statistics gathered at Yale and Harvard a few years ago, it appears that both of these universities are spending practically \$100,000 a year on the training of one hundred athletes, or \$1000 each on one hundred men who must already have been far above the normal standard, whereas, the average man is having only about \$4 a year spent on his physical education.

There has been considerable talk of late to the effect that the life of the athlete has been shortened by the excessive training which he received during his college course. This is still open to question, but the German expert opinion is unanimous about it, and there have been several recent studies here, which seem to show that the human organism is not adapted to such heavy prolonged strains as those involved

in four-mile rowing, or in university basket ball and football practice, and that both heart and lungs are weakened ultimately by this strain. The fact that a large portion of college athletes die from heart or lung trouble, seems to give force to this theory.

Of conditions at Annapolis, Dr. C. F. Stokes, Surgeon-General of the United States Navy, says :

“ In 1911 the medical records of 625 star or specialized athletes of the classes of 1892 to 1911, inclusive, at the Naval Academy were carefully examined and the results of this investigation published. In 1912 the records of 580 non-athletes of the same classes were examined, not so much in the expectation that the physiological question involved was susceptible of being answered definitely by mathematics alone, as in response to the general request for further information.

“ The results obtained show that 22 casualties (retirements and deaths) occurred among the non-athletes as compared with 21 among the athletes. Further, it was found that from those diseases selected, to which athletics have a possible or probable causative relation, there has been but one death among non-athletes as compared with 6 for the athletic group. The number still in the service whose medical records show the listed abnormal physical conditions is 187 for non-athletes, as against 198 for athletes. The following conditions or disabilities show an excess amounting to fifty per cent or more among athletes : Arteriosclerosis, valvular disease of the heart, cardiac irregularity, cardiac dilation, cardiac hypertrophy, gastric disturbances, albuminuria, general poor health, obesity, tuberculosis, and various traumatic lesions as well.

“ This bare statement of fact shows that in casualties and in the listed abnormal physical conditions the non-athletes and

the athletes are about equal, but this is misleading without due consideration of the other factors involved. It must be remembered that the athletic group consists of a body of 'twice-picked' men.

"It seems reasonable to suppose that the disabilities among the athletic list are largely due to spectacular athleticism among young men who are prone to overtrain or hazard too much and would not have been acquired had the overstraining and overtraining not been indulged in. The prolonged rigorous course of physical exercises necessary in physical sports is believed to be dangerous in its after effects upon those who indulge in athletic sports sufficiently to excel therein and I wish to emphasize the fact that we ought to look for the after effects of athletics among those who tried to excel and failed; it is here, I am convinced, that we shall find a high degree of damage."

Amateurism. — The most perplexing question of college athletics is the question of amateurism. The rules that have been thus far promoted by the A. A. U. remind one of what Jesus said of the Pharisees. "They tithe the mint and the rue and the cumin, but they neglect the weightier matters of judgment." The distinction between amateurs and professionals is comparatively unimportant, seldom working a real hardship. The sportsmanship of the play, on the other hand, which has been given little attention, affects all of the contestants and the entire student body as well. Professor C. A. Stewart in an article in the February *Atlantic*, 1914, says:

"To my mind there is no place in college athletics for the distinction between an amateur and a professional, that a man is a *bona fide* student of the institution he represents is all we have a right to ask." I understand the rule in regard to

amateurs grew up originally to prevent the professional oarsmen of the Thames from taking part in the university competitions. In this case, it would have some meaning. But it has certainly been carried to absurd lengths in this country. As Professor Stewart says, there is scarcely a man in college athletics who has not at some time in his boyhood received a money prize for a race at some picnic or fair. It is absurd that such a race should debar a student from college athletics. He probably needs the training as much as anybody. It simply compels the whole body of athletes to lie in regard to their eligibility.

A girl goes into a playground to have charge of the play of the little children and she immediately becomes a professional in baseball, football, polo, and all other games. A man plays baseball in the summer at some hotel and makes enough perhaps to pay his way to college the next year. There might be reason for debarring him from baseball on the ground of his having had an excess of practice which gave him an advantage over the other students, but I can see no reason why playing baseball in the summer should make a man a professional in football and basket ball and swimming. I can see no reason why each sport should not stand on its own bottom. The whole keenness of this interest is only another index of our keenness of interest in winning rather than our interest in sport. If we are out for sport, professionalism makes little difference. Amateurs and professionals play together on all of the county cricket teams of England. The fundamental trouble with our college athletics is that we have made it a serious business. Victory is sought for and trained for no less seriously than as though a million dollars were the prize. The men have eaten at special tables and held these contests

in the forefront of their minds. The results have become so very important to them that the play has lost most of its joyousness and can scarcely be called play at all. In the original meaning of "amateur" — one who plays for the love of playing — all this "varsity" play is professional. It is doubtful if it would secure any harder or different training or cause any more crooked methods if a million dollars were laid on the contest. It must be said, also, that a good deal of money does get down to the players in one way or another. They receive their suits, sweaters, shoes, car fare, hotel bills, and a part of their meals as a matter of course, and it is not always evident where the balance of the money goes. The doctor whose private fortune enables him to serve his patients without a fee is no less a doctor on that account. To my mind it does not make a particle of difference whether an athlete has competed for money or not, the important question is whether he is making a business of athletics, or whether he takes up athletics for recreation. No one who is familiar with the training of any great football team can doubt for a moment that it is serious business for the team. The legitimate distinction between professional and amateur sport seems to be that the amateur performance is not charged for, and the professional performance is. Athletics have been made free to the students at the University of Michigan for the last two years.

Athletics at the University of Wisconsin. — The universities are taking a stronger grip on the situation each year. The director of physical training at the University of Wisconsin at least has general charge of all the coaching; and in the whole Missouri Valley Conferences of Colleges, every coach now has to be a member of the faculty of the university or college and to be employed as such.

The Wisconsin *Catalogue* contains the following significant statements :

“ The Department of Physical Education has jurisdiction over all athletic, aquatic, and gymnastic activities. -

“The aims of the department are as follows :

“1. The development of organic power, the basis of vitality, the prerequisite to physical and mental efficiency ;

“2. To secure and maintain good posture, a harmonious muscular development, and a reasonable degree of bodily skill and grace ;

“3. To provide an incentive and an opportunity for every student to secure at least one hour's physical recreation daily as a balance to the sedentary demands of university life ;

“4. To conserve the social and moral values of games and sports and to secure to every student the fullest opportunity for their practice ;

“5. To develop the ‘ habit of exercise.’

“6. To train physical educators and instructors, play leaders, and recreation directors for service in educational institutions, clubs, playgrounds, municipal recreation systems, etc. ;

“7. To establish high ideals and efficient administration of athletics throughout the state of Wisconsin.

“The Intercollegiate sports are under the government of the Athletic Council, a committee of five members of the faculty appointed by the President. The Director of the Department is the chairman of this committee.

“All coaches and assistants are members of the University faculty and of the staff of the Department of Physical Education.

“Interclass and Intercollege tournaments and contests for men are conducted in all games and sports. Their conduct

and management is in the hands of the Intramural Athletic Committee, composed of five students representing agriculture, commerce, engineering, law and letters and science, and the Director and the Manager of Athletics, ex officio."

There is a strong desire at present to secure a more general participation of the student body in athletics. Probably the proportion of those taking part is increasing in nearly all the colleges and universities. It certainly is for the country at large. At the University of Pennsylvania, and I doubt not in other universities, there is regular class work in athletics. Teams are being organized in all the common games and events. Thus while practically every one plays football and cricket at Oxford and Cambridge, and only a small proportion play baseball and football at Harvard and Yale, the disproportion in number of participants is not really so great as it seems, because there are in the American universities also teams in gymnastics and track, fencing, boxing, golf, hockey, lacrosse, water polo, and basket ball, and these, as a whole, take a considerable number of men.

From the point of view of athletics, we can but regard with concern the present tendency of students to forsake the small college for the great university in the city. The best stand the colleges can make is around their athletic field. Athletics was the chief reason for putting the colleges in the country originally, and it is a good reason for keeping them there now. But, in that case, the social, moral, and hygienic values of games must be more fully realized, and the colleges must furnish opportunity for every one to play.

Summary. — When we consider the American school system as a whole, we notice that it has the following peculiarities: the boarding school of high school grade is comparatively

infrequent; there has been no attempt in the past to furnish adequate playgrounds for public high schools; and almost the only play is of the intercollegiate type; the social and moral values of sport are very imperfectly realized by the public, and the play of the girls has been scarcely considered at all. The whole effect of our system has been to produce a type of athletic specialist.

It does not seem likely that these conditions will be corrected so long as the athletics are in the hands of the students. If play could be organized into the program of the college, it would be easy to have all the students play with the athletic fields that most of them now possess. The problem is essentially the same as it is in the playground: How to get all to play in ways that are not disgraceful. The sportsmanship in our high schools and colleges is at present inferior to the sportsmanship in our best playgrounds. The percentage of participation in games is also much less. The solutions of the two problems are identical: a director with ideals, and a capacity for leadership.

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CHAPTER XII

RECREATION AT SUMMER SCHOOLS

THE habit of summer study is becoming fashionable. Not only is the number of summer schools increasing rapidly, but the attendance is also increasing. Where ten years ago the largest school in the country had less than twenty-five hundred students, the summer registration at Columbia University has now passed the five thousand mark, and the total number of summer students in the United States is probably twice what it was ten years ago.

The students at these schools are, for the most part, either regular teachers or those who are preparing to teach, and the increasing popularity of this summer study is one of the most hopeful signs in the educational field, for it indicates that the teachers are aware of the needs of their profession and are seeking either a better preparation in order to make a beginning, or are ambitious for advancement. Most of these schools are only six weeks in length, but some of them are ten or twelve. All over the south and southwestern part of the country the thermometer is often nearly a hundred in the shade during a large part of the session. In the normal schools of Missouri, despite the trying conditions of the weather, the session is six days a week for ten weeks, and still the enthusiasm does not seem to evaporate. Summer students everywhere are a hard-working, conscientious group, probably devoting an hour or two more a day, on an average, to their studies

than the regular students in the institutions which they are attending.

The material that is being offered, also, is of very concentrated nature, as it is often a condensation of a twenty weeks' course for a six weeks' term. Nevertheless, it is not at all uncommon to find students in summer schools who have recitations during nearly every period of the school day and who are working far into the night in preparation for these recitations. The school ought to be a wholesome part of life, and to inculcate wholesome intellectual methods; but no one can think of such a period of cramming which has no time for society or recreation as wholesome; and any one who has ever been through the experience knows that material that is bolted in this way is soon forgotten, or if it is retained, it is a mere mass of foreign material in the mind, which does not become an effective part of the personality.

It is not unusual for teachers to leave summer schools broken down, and many others find themselves overworn at the end of the session. This is surely a condition that ought not to be; for a fresh, vigorous teacher with something of the joy of life in store, even if she is not altogether well trained, is likely to be a better influence in the schoolroom than a nervous, exhausted teacher who has crammed in a great deal of special information during the summer.

A considerable part of the students at most summer normals are there in order that they may secure their first certificate and enter upon the profession of teaching, and the work for them is oftentimes a hard cram for the fall examination. Undoubtedly it has been necessary for the normal schools to offer work of this character and to give this opportunity for would-be teachers; but we may well question if six or twelve

weeks of systematic cramming in summer is a good thing either for a student who has just graduated from high school or for a teacher who has spent her year amidst the worries and strains of the classroom. But the summer schools are becoming less and less places where untrained and incompetent teachers go in order to secure a first position or to hold a position for which they were not adequately prepared, and they are more and more largely devoting themselves to the further training of successful teachers and students in all lines in order that they may keep abreast of current progress and secure greater efficiency in their professions.

The Training needed by Summer Students. — Many teachers who come to summer schools have already had a hard year. Their work has been indoors, scholastic in nature, confining, and involving a considerable nervous strain. It is desirable that every teacher should be a student in order that she may keep abreast of the times and retain a love for study. But the summer ought to be a balance wheel to correct the deficiencies of the year and to normalize life. The summer school should emphasize all those things that the year has neglected. There should be abundant opportunities for manual training, domestic economy, gardening, agriculture, and play. So far as possible the laboratory method should be followed. To the largest extent that is consistent with efficiency, the work should be out of doors.

We must also appreciate that the three R's are becoming not only relatively, but also absolutely, less important than they were a few years ago. Relatively they are less important because instead of three out of five or six subjects they are now three out of fifteen or twenty subjects that are taught in the elementary schools. And absolutely they are less important

for a large number of reasons. A hundred years ago every community was isolated and more or less provincial. A person lived most of his life, probably, in the community in which he was born, and if he came to know about the rest of the world, it was almost entirely through books. But to-day railroad and steamboat travel has become almost universal, and our cities have become cosmopolitan to an extent of which we did not dream a few years ago. Not only have many of us seen much of the world, but we know many people who were either born in other countries or who have traveled there and can tell us about the things that we ourselves have not seen, while nearly all of the latest improvements and inventions are now brought to our door and installed in the smallest villages. The moving picture is throwing the world on the screen before us and showing us the processes of industry, the lives of people, and the scenery of every land. The automobile has greatly enlarged our range, so that we are as familiar with a country fifty miles in radius as we once were with a country five or ten miles in radius. In all these ways it is now possible to know without reading much that was only possible through books a few years ago.

Writing by hand is being rapidly superseded by the typewriter, the dictaphone, and the stenographer, and is becoming relatively less important. Probably ninety-five to ninety-nine per cent of all the letters received and sent out by any business man to-day are written on the typewriter.

Arithmetical calculations are also being largely superseded. About all of the arithmetic that the ordinary man has ever used has been the common processes of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. But the addition is now done mostly by the cash register and the adding machine, and there

are various new machines that perform the other mathematical calculations.

The Teacher should know Life and Things. — If the school is to be a preparation for practical life, it should not be a cloister set off from the current of the world's affairs. The teacher should travel and meet people. If it is possible, it would be a good thing for her during the summer to engage for a time in some other form of work, and perhaps a different form each year, in order that she may really know the conditions into which her pupils are going, and that the school and the community may find through her a more intimate connection.

Knowledge that comes from books is always relatively vague and indistinct. We would not go far to hear what any one has read about Africa; but if the person has been there or even has seen a moving picture of scenes in that country, it is different. Anything that a person has seen and heard at first hand becomes real to him or her, as it does not from reading. So far as possible, the teacher ought to see, during the summer time, everything she teaches about — rivers, lakes, mountains, factories, agricultural crops and products, and various industries and occupations of the people. She should do also just as many of the things that the world is doing as it is possible for her to do.

Social Training. — Teaching is a social profession. The teacher is working upon plastic social material and training the child for society as well as business. The age that is coming in is essentially a social age, and the teacher who has to prepare for it must have the spirit of that age and be essentially a social worker. We have been teaching psychology in our normal schools for a generation, but all investigations

seem to indicate that it has had little effect upon education. Psychology is supposed to be the science of the mind, but our expert psychologists do not begin to have the social skill in understanding or dealing with people that is possessed by our social leaders and politicians, and it is quite as important that the teacher should study children and adults in social relationships as that she should study about the working of their minds from books, and every summer school should provide an adequate and wholesome social life for its students.

The Teacher should develop her Motor Side. — The chief discipline of the school has been too often the suppression of motor impulses, and the teacher has often devoted herself for a long time so exclusively to study that she has almost entirely repressed the motor tendency of her own ideas. Probably a bulk of information is less effective in the minds of teachers than in any other class in the community for this reason. Knowledge is likely to be for her information and not vital material to be wrought directly into life, except through the medium of the child. Teachers often become anæmic and dyspeptic and nervous and tuberculous from their sedentary life and the dust and heat of the schoolroom, and the summer ought to set their blood to circulating again and restore the spring to their step and something of the sprightliness of youth to their mental and physical being.

A Program of Recreation. — With a view to overcoming certain of these objections and offering to teachers at the same time the advantages of the summer school and the summer resort, I have recently prepared for a number of summer schools a program of recreation. The plan herewith submitted can be carried out in part at least by any summer school, and nearly all of the features will be practical at most.

Games. — Both for the sake of their pupils and themselves all teachers should learn to play all of the common games of children, and every summer school ought to furnish an opportunity for their students to play from four to six and immediately after supper each day, such games as volley ball, long ball, indoor baseball, basket ball, tennis, and croquet. These games should be given credit in the summer school on the basis of one hour's credit to two hours' play. Every teacher needs from one to two hours of good exercise every day for her own sake, and if she learns to play these games at school, she is likely to introduce, or at least encourage, them, in the schools to which she goes. Her skill and joy in play will be a new source of sympathy and comradeship between her and her children, and the games will serve to make the student body acquainted, to tide over the first period of homesickness, and to give them an entirely new type of comradeship with each other. In order to facilitate genuine acquaintanceship, the teams should be made permanent so far as possible, and at first each member should be asked to repeat his or her name when the teams assemble. It is not difficult to get from a quarter to three quarters of the students of any summer school out to play these games for an hour a day wherever encouragement and adequate facilities are furnished.

Folk Dancing. — During one or two evenings immediately after supper, or just before supper, there should be folk dancing on the lawn, as it has been organized at the University of Wisconsin and some other of the summer schools. A skillful teacher will often get a body of untrained students to dance one or two new folk dances fairly well in an evening. It is a great advantage for every teacher to have had this experience and to know that it is possible for her to do it, as

folk dancing is coming into the schools. It probably offers the best exercise for a large number of people in a limited space that is anywhere available. It keeps the muscles supple, and the rhythm minimizes the mental effort and gives a pleasure which is not found in calisthenics and formal gymnastics.

Story-telling. — One or two evenings a week after supper there should be story-telling on the lawn. Story-telling is the beginning of literature and a chief form of instruction and recreation among all primitive people. It is always the delight of children and is the most effective way of interesting them in literature. Both as recreation and as a pedagogical method story-telling will justify itself. Story-telling on the lawn was inaugurated many years ago at the Summer School of the South at Knoxville when Commissioner Claxton was in charge and has been carried on there ever since. Either the Department of English or the school librarian is usually willing to tell the stories.

General Singing. — One or two evenings a week there should be singing on the lawn or in the outdoor theater if there is one. Singing is one of the best ways of putting a group of people in sympathy with each other, and it is a training which every teacher needs. Both as recreation and as pedagogical material it justifies itself and should be a part of the course at every summer school.

Social Dancing. — On Friday night, if it is consistent with the policy and morals of the school, there should be social dancing in the gymnasium or in some other appropriate hall. To this dancing, not only the students of the school but the young people of the town should be invited. It is quite possible that the summer school should to a very considerable extent take the place

of the far less wholesome summer resort ; but if it is to do this, it must furnish more abundant social opportunities than it has in the past and there must be an effort to connect the social life of the school with the social life of the town. We need not blush because it is possible that there may be some love making or even flirtations as a result. Every normal young man and young woman desire love and marriage as the natural consummation of life, and most of these young people are at the period when it is appropriate. There is no reason why summer schools should seek to blind themselves to actual conditions or to discourage one of the strongest and most wholesome impulses of human nature. Love making that is driven into corners is always less wholesome than it is where there is a normal opportunity for it. As there is always a surplus of men and a deficiency of women in town during the summer, the surplus of young women at summer schools should be a welcome addition to the social life of the town, if the proper connection between the two has been made.

I am aware that this love making would be considered as highly objectionable by many summer school directors. They will say that it is always a sad distraction from studies and that the afflicted ones will not be able to carry their work. This will doubtless be true of some though not of many, but even where it is true, it may be that the wounded ones will learn more of life from love than they would from any book of methods, and the softening the heart and deepening the emotions of the teacher is quite as worthy of consideration as is the training of her intellect. At any rate it seems certain that a developed and wisely regulated social life will build up the attendance and very largely from those who otherwise would take the summer resort

with its flirtations instead. The summer school can always depend on a strong group of mature students who have been lifelong teachers of propriety, who will not easily be led into indiscretions, and who will largely make the social atmosphere and moderate the fervor of the flirtations. As a by-product of this social life many of the young ladies would get their first introduction into society and would come to know the local city and its people in a way that would not otherwise be possible. They would be taken on auto trips to points of interest and would come to know the locality well. The lecturer at summer schools usually has this social opportunity accorded to him and generally finds it both one of the charms and at the same time one of the most instructive experiences of his summer. Of course all social occasions may be kept within the summer school if the authorities so desire.

Walking Trips. — Walking is at present, in most schools, conducted only by the department of physical training and possibly by that of biology. In general these walks are taken simply as physical exercise and often without being planned. But if the teachers are to become familiar with objects and with life, there ought to be an attempt in every department to have them see the actual things. The art department should teach an appreciation of beauty by taking the students to see art galleries, handsome buildings, waterfalls, moonlight nights, and landscape effects. The department of history should take its students to points of interest in connection with the settlement and development of the locality or of the state and nation. The department of geography should study the rivers, lakes, and rock formations of the locality and visit the factories and study the methods of transportation. The department of agriculture should

visit the surrounding farms, come to know the different grains and products, and observe the methods. The department of biology should make collections of plants and study the birds and animal life. The department of manual training should visit the shops and factories, observe carpentry work going on, and study the equipment for manual training in the schools of the city. The department of domestic economy should make trips to the kitchens of the great hotels and observe the equipment in different schools. There is no department in the summer school that could not find many things of interest along its line which would be worthy of a visit. These trips would be much better as physical exercise than as though they were conducted for the purpose of physical training, because the exercise would be a by-product, as exercise always ought to be, and the person will be less wearied than he would be if he were walking merely for the sake of walking. As the old hunter said, "I can walk twenty-five miles with a gun on my back when I can't walk five without one."

Automobiling and Horseback Riding. — Summer students are not wealthy, but there are many in every summer school who would welcome the opportunity to take an automobile trip on Saturday afternoon to some point not more than fifteen or twenty miles away. If an arrangement were made by the summer school, it would be possible probably to hire a seven-seated automobile for about six dollars for the afternoon, and six young people might thus have a pleasant drive at a dollar apiece.

In some localities there are a number of students who would be glad to organize some kind of riding club for Saturday afternoon and go out on horseback for trips of ten or fifteen miles into the surrounding country. . About all that is needed

to secure this result in both cases is some initiative and the making of the necessary preliminary arrangements with the owners of automobiles and horses.

Swimming. — There are now a considerable number of schools that require swimming for graduation, and every teacher ought to know how to swim. There should be arrangements wherever it is possible so that teachers might learn to swim during the summer time, and there should be facilities for rowing wherever a suitable body of water is at hand.

Special Excursions. — Special excursions should be made on Saturday afternoon to points of historical, literary, or scenic interest in the neighborhood, and at some of these there should be an arrangement, if possible, for a picnic supper and for singing around the camp fire. It would be well, perhaps, if one of these occasions might be at full moon, so that the students might get the effect of the moonlight and perhaps walk home, if it were not too far, in the evening. A corn roast would be a good occasion for one evening's jollification at most schools.

Entertainments at the School. — So far as possible each department of the summer school should be asked to furnish one entertainment during the session. The department of music might well give a short opera or concert; the department of English might present a play; and the department of physical training should be able to get up a very presentable play festival and pageant. These features would tend to link more closely the town and the summer school and make the students and townspeople better acquainted.

Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls. — The summer is the best time for the activities which are represented in these two new organizations, and as they are both for adolescent young people, and have a great significance for education and social life,

many of the summer students would probably be glad to take the training which would enable them to have charge of such organizations in their own schools. The activities, also, are an excellent training for the teachers and will tend to supplement their overscholastic education. Both of these groups, also, will offer a very convenient organization for the students at the summer school, which will serve the purpose of fraternities and other combinations in bringing them closer together and in intensifying friendships and social opportunity. In almost any good-sized summer school a class of camp fire girls could undoubtedly be formed and probably one for Scout Masters also.

A Week-end Camp. — It would not be possible for every summer school to have a week-end camp to which its students might go, but there are a large number of schools where this might easily be done. The tents could often be borrowed from the National Guard and placed in some convenient canyon or valley or by the side of some lake. A man and his wife, students or professors in the summer school, should be in charge during the week, and on Friday night the department of domestic economy should be moved to the camp with all necessary provisions, in order to run a summer camp for those members of the summer school who choose to camp there for a week's end. This would give the young ladies an invaluable practical experience in camp cooking and all the students a chance for a vacation and outing. It would also give an opportunity for the students of bird life to make their studies, for the botanists to make collections, and the geologists to study rock formations and other things of interest. It might be necessary to have separate camps for the men and the women, or to have them go on alternate weeks; but with proper

chaperoning it might also be easily possible to have a camp to which the men and women might go at the same time, and this of course would increase the interest of many.

A Chautauqua Program. — In coöperation with the local authorities it ought to be possible to run a very satisfactory Chautauqua in connection with nearly every summer school. In many cases this is already being done, but, for the most part, these Chautauquas last for a week only and take over-much of the students' time during this period. It is difficult for a person to hear and digest eight or ten lectures a day. It would be vastly better to scatter a Chautauqua program over six weeks, so that there would be lectures and entertainments one or two afternoons and evenings each week, rather than to put the whole program into five or six days. It would be very much easier to put on a Chautauqua program at a summer school than in the town at large, because the summer school itself would furnish an audience nearly large enough to pay all expenses, and the surrounding city and town would, if properly worked up, take whatever room there was left in the auditorium. This would minimize expenses in general, because there would be no tent to put up or chairs to rent, or other preliminaries which are likely to be considerable items in the expense of an itinerant Chautauqua. Such a program planned by the educational authorities of the school should be of higher grade and much more satisfactory for summer school students, at least, than the ordinary rather superficial, over-entertaining type of Chautauqua. The only places where such a Chautauqua program might not well be given are places where the summer school is small and has no adequate auditorium or where it is isolated and has no considerable population to draw upon in the sale of tickets. It ought to be

possible to offer a course of a superior order in this way to the students of a summer school at a considerable lower figure than is usual at Chautauquas and still make the Chautauqua self-supporting.

The Moving Pictures. — Any summer school of five hundred students will probably support a moving-picture theater on a five-cent basis. The ordinary moving-picture theater probably pays from three to five dollars a day for an operator, and from five to ten dollars for its films, according to the films that are presented. For ten dollars a night, a sum which would mean an attendance of two hundred at five cents each, any school could offer a program of moving pictures which would illustrate history, biography, and literature, and would be quite as instructive as anything given in the regular courses. It is also likely that it would be able to get a number of superior films which would pay expenses by charging a ten-cent admission. Where there are a considerable number of students in dormitories near the campus, it is probable that nearly all would attend a moving-picture exhibition from seven to eight, as this would offer a wholesome diversion and would take no time from study. By putting in wholesome moving pictures of this kind at the school, the students would be kept away from the rather inane pictures that are likely to be shown at down-town places.

The Theater. — While the best theatrical companies do not travel during the summer time, there are a few which do. Any large summer school would probably furnish a sufficient attendance for the auditorium to be used as a regular theater with a regular stock company two or three times during the summer. Certainly if this were advertised throughout the town, so that it might have a town audience as well as a

school audience, it should be very well possible to have some of the best plays presented by some of the best actors. If this became general in summer schools, the good actors would not lay off during the summer but might find it their chief harvest. A large proportion of students at nearly all summer schools are coming in from country sections and small towns where they do not have opportunities to see good plays, and such an opportunity would be sure to be welcomed. It will be seen that by the use of moving pictures, operas, and plays given by the school, Chautauquas, lecturers, and theatrical companies, it should be possible to give at least one or two high-grade performances each week at the normal school without the normal school's being put to any great expense in regard to them. Many schools have gone on the assumption that their students had no money to spend or were unwilling to spend it for entertainments or lectures. But many summer students spend considerable amounts on ice creams and sodas, and, in my experience, a lecture where a charge is made is generally better attended than one which is offered free.

Lack of Time. — There are many normal school principals who are sure to say, "That is all good; but our students are working very hard; many of them are here in order to pass the fall examination for certificates, and others in order to keep their places in the schools; they have no time for a program of recreation such as is here outlined." Doubtless there are students who would feel that they did not have time, but, on the other hand, this entire program can be put into effect in any summer school without taking an hour from the time that should be devoted to study. For we will suppose that the students take the time off from four until nearly eight each day, and during these four hours there is ample time for all the

swimming, games, walking, moving-picture entertainments, story-telling, dancing, and other things outlined. Saturday afternoons, which are not usually devoted to study, will be ample for the long excursions and there are some who would not think it very wicked, perhaps, if certain nature study trips or trips to see the more beautiful scenes of the vicinity were taken on a Sunday afternoon. It is certain that the great majority of students need at least this much exercise and recreation in order to maintain their health, and that work that does not leave this much time for leisure and recreation will be in the nature of cramming. The work done in this extra time will not merely be forgotten, but will cause all the other material taken during the other time to be forgotten as well.

The Value of this Program to the Students. — Perhaps the chief value of a program of this kind to the students is that it would give them a normal life made up of work and play and sociability, the type of a life, in fact, that they ought to live throughout the entire year and which they will tend to continue to a very considerable extent if they are once properly started; and surely it is a life of this kind that every school should seek to promote.

Teachers who are breaking down under the old type of summer school or coming back with impaired vitality and overstrung nerves would build up both in body and health under the exercise and social opportunities which would be offered.

They would have a much more intimate social life which many of them have not had much opportunity for during the year, and they would form many intimate friendships. They would have such a good time that they would leave the summer school with a feeling of regret rather than with a feeling of

satiety with regard to study and disgust for the days of overwork that have preceded.

They would have gotten no less of the regular work, but this work will have been related to life in such a way that it will be much more likely to be remembered and become an effective part of their characters.

The new material, which will be a pure extra, will be no less valuable than anything else gained in the summer school, as it will prepare the teacher to organize the games and recreation of the children and will give her an entirely new sympathy with play. There is also every probability that she will carry on a considerable amount of it during the year and will thus maintain her health and avoid nervous breakdowns. Without her having specifically taken a course for this purpose, it will have given every teacher a considerable preparation in the organization of play.

Value of this Plan to the Summer School. — A summer school organized in this way would attract many teachers who find themselves tired at the end of the school year and feel that they cannot stand the strain of an ordinary summer course, but who would be glad to go to a school where they could have abundant recreation as well as an intellectual atmosphere and an opportunity for such study as they were able to carry. Many successful teachers with secure positions would be glad to attend a school where they could learn the new subjects and have the advantages of a summer resort combined with a summer school at the expense of a summer school.

The social opportunities would rightfully attract many who feel that they want to have a good time and perhaps meet some masculine society during the summer. There would also be many young college graduates and others who are not work-

ing who would be glad to attend a school where they could have a good time and learn the things that they wanted to learn, such as domestic economy, without overworking. Such a school would also be a great asset to the town, as it would furnish many wholesome entertainments and social occasions which all the people would welcome, and a very different and more intimate relationship between the school and the town would naturally grow up, to the advantage of both.

A recreation plan of this kind could be advertised in the catalogue and would tend to draw students from far and wide, for, however much students and teachers may want to study, there are none who do not wish a good time in connection with it. The old students, having had a good time, would become boosters.

The various events suggested would also be the best kind of advertising of the summer school, as they are the sort of things that would be written up in the papers, not merely of the locality, but even of distant cities.

The Coöperation of the Different Departments. — Much of the work here outlined can be carried on simply through the organization of the different departments to do it. Thus the music department would have charge of the singing on the lawn and around the camp fire; the English department of the story-telling; the physical training department of the folk and social dancing; the domestic economy department of the picnics and the camp; and the geography, biology, and various other departments of special excursions for the purpose of observation along these special lines. It is believed that if each department is thus held responsible for furnishing an element in the recreation and general life of the school, it will bring the school closer together and make a unit of it as it has not been

before. Also the part furnished to the general life will be a sort of show window through which each department will exhibit its wares and will very largely make its reputation in the school.

A Director of Recreation. — In order for such a plan to be really successful, there will have to be a director of recreation for the summer school. The summer school needs a director of play no less than does the ordinary school, for teachers are not only “underplayed,” but there is no class, not even the children, who need play more. Such a director would be also a sort of social secretary and organizer of social affairs, and he is necessary from every point of view if the school is to give the teacher the necessary training for the social age that is coming in. It must be remembered that, if the summer school does not furnish recreation, then the students are going to attend the picture shows, dance halls, and other places of amusement about the city, and the influence of many of these places will not be good. But if the school itself will organize the social life in this way, it will be able to control the conditions so far as its students are concerned.

Possible for All Schools. — Of course it must be realized that there are summer schools on the prairies and in the mountains, at the side of beautiful bodies of water, and in the desert; and that the conditions in these schools are very different. It will not be feasible to have mountain climbing at the Kansas normal schools, and historical excursions will not be as interesting in North Dakota as in Massachusetts; but there is no summer school in the country that might not carry out a large part of this program to its advantage; and when once a few summer schools do these things effectively, the other schools will be compelled to undertake them for their own protection, as their students will otherwise go to the school where these attractions are offered.

CHAPTER XIII

THE SUMMER PLAYGROUNDS

PROBABLY four fifths of the playgrounds of the country are at present maintained during the summer vacations only. When we consider the school playgrounds by themselves, we shall find the number that are maintained for the entire year is inconsiderable, but that a good many beside the summer playgrounds are kept open after school for a time during the spring and fall. Under the circumstances, it would appear that the great administrative problem is the problem of this summer play. So it has generally been considered; but it is probable that the summer playground is to be of diminishing relative importance as time goes on. It is important enough, however, so that no treatment would be complete that did not deal with it.

Which School Yards shall be Opened? — It is not customary to maintain all of the school yards as summer playgrounds, as the attendance usually will not warrant it; hence a selection must be made. A school yard that is to be used as a summer playground should be large enough to play in, and it should have shade and equipment, and should be in good condition. It should also be at a good-sized school. It can be taken for granted that it will take at least five hundred children for a playground. There will seldom be more than one tenth of them there at any one time, and a playground scarcely seems worth while for less than fifty children. The children of a four-room school will not be sufficient unless there are several

other similar buildings in the neighborhood that can also send their children there. It will be a decided advantage if the school ground has a fence around the outside, and if it has no fence separating the boys from the girls, unless the grounds and school are so large that there may be both a man and a woman director. If there is a division fence, it may still be possible to use both yards by cutting a gate between them. If the yards of the houses are inadequate and the quarter is congested, there ought to be several extra playgrounds opened for the small children.

The Session. — The session at the summer playground is usually eight or ten weeks. The hours are likely to be from about eight-thirty to twelve in the morning and one to five in the afternoon. However, these are not the hours that secure the largest attendance in most cities, as the late afternoon hours, especially the hours after six o'clock, are usually the most popular. In the hotter parts of the country, there will not be a good attendance during the middle of the day unless the ground is well shaded. In the northern part it is possible to play games in some cases up till nine o'clock in the evening without the ground's being lighted. In these hours after supper, the playground should secure the attendance of the working boys and girls and some of the fathers and mothers as well as the school children. The evening is always the pleasantest time for games in the hot weather. The lighting of a school playground does not involve a prohibitive expense, if the city has a reasonable rate for electricity. It costs only a dollar and a half a night to light the large playground of the Emerson School in Gary. In places where there are a large number of working boys and girls it is especially desirable that the grounds should be open at night.

The Teachers. — The distinctive characteristic of the summer playground is that it is temporary and that it has to be organized each year anew. It is difficult to secure trained teachers for temporary positions and for the small salaries that most cities are able to pay. Usually the regular teachers of the schools are employed. As some of them are likely to decide on a vacation instead at the last moment, a considerable number of substitutes are desirable. A playground experience is a good thing for a teacher, because nearly always it brings about a more intimate relationship with the children. But it is no place for one who is nervous or who does not like children. I have often seen a very tired teacher, however, coming directly from her day school to take up the work in the hot Washington sun, still gain constantly in flesh and physical condition.

In a number of cities there is both a paid and a volunteer force on the school playgrounds. The number of children varies greatly at different times of the day, and it is a very decided advantage to have a volunteer force who will come in to assist when the numbers are greatest. In some cities there are a considerable number of these who are really play apprentices. They are serving their time in the hope of being appointed later to regular positions on salary. Often the normal students are glad to serve in this way for the experience. It is well-nigh impossible to conduct a playground successfully on volunteer assistance, but as additional teachers this assistance is a great advantage.

Very often, though not through any necessity of the case, the supervisor of physical training of the city is also the supervisor of the summer playgrounds, and other members of the physical training force are usually employed. Often the physical trainers of the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. are also brought

into service during the summer. Teachers who have had a more or less adequate preparation for this work can be secured also from the various schools of physical training, which are enumerated in the chapter on the Training of Playground Workers. It is very desirable that the teachers of the summer playgrounds should have had some preparation for the work, and, if public school teachers are to be appointed, they should be required to take a course of training.

There are many still who do not believe in the organization of play. They say the chief value of play is its spontaneity and freedom, and they believe that it cannot be both free and directed. But under crowded city conditions the playground organizer may be the only condition of free play, as Dr. Gulick has shown, because in an undirected playground all of the facilities soon get into the hands of the older and stronger boys or gangs, and are used by them as their personal property almost to the complete exclusion of the smaller and weaker children. This is an exact parallel between savage and civilized life. The savage is not restrained by any law, but he enslaves those whom he is able to conquer. The conduct of the civilized man is regulated by many rules, but there are, or should be, the laws of right conduct. They do not impose any restraint on the well-meaning. The play director must teach games, athletics, dancing, gardening, industrial arts, and many other things; but his chief function, as I conceive, is the having in mind of something to do, and organizing the children in teams, holding competitions in athletics, and in other ways securing orderly and energetic coöperation in play activities. A playground left to itself stands for little but fresh air. A playground with a high-grade organizer stands for the best possible physical training and for social and moral culture. As Mr.

Lee has shown, the children in the " Big Injun " age, between six and thirteen, who constitute eighty per cent or ninety per cent of the attendance in most of our playgrounds, are too individualistic to organize their own games and keep them going. But we must not look down on the children on account of their helplessness in this particular, because we are exactly the same ourselves. Many summer hotels have some one to organize the amusements for the adults. Every kind of community that ever gets anything done has to have a leader. It is very fortunate when that person happens to be a resident in that community and can give his time to it, without compensation, but nine tenths or more of all communities are civically dead because they have no such person.

The Janitor. — The janitors have been a source of trouble in some cities. They usually are paid for part time only, and the playground breaks into their day and their summer vacation. They do not like to have the children get into a habit of coming to the school yards. A good many school systems, however, are coming to pay the janitors for full time for their playground service, that is, practically the schools pay a double salary during the time the playgrounds are open, as they pay the regular salary of the janitor in any case. If the playground is unfenced, the swings and other pieces of apparatus need to be taken down every night and put up again the next morning, and there are supplies to be taken care of and kept in a safe place. The baseballs, mitts, and such play apparatus are great temptation to boys, and these will be stolen if they are not locked up. The toilets and fountains have to be attended to and watched, and the janitor must see that the children do not roam about through the building, both for the sake of virtue and the school property. If there is a new teacher in a rather

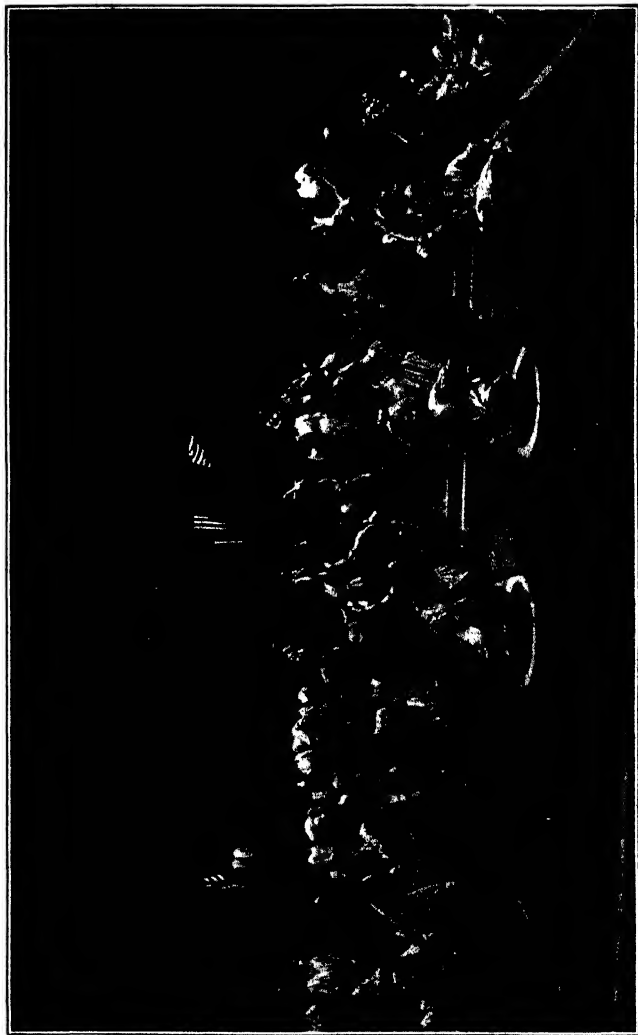
rough community, she may need help in the discipline at times, especially if there are gangs that come in. The janitor can be very useful at such times if he chooses, and a large part of the director's enjoyment of her job is often determined by how she and the janitor get on.

Activities. — The activities on the summer playgrounds are much the same as they are during the year.

By far the most important activity is play itself. In general, the kindergarten games are very popular with the small children, and with the girls a little older, folk dancing and such games as Jacob and Rachel, cat and mouse, three deep, captain ball, circle ball, and prisoner's base. Among the organized games, tether ball, played with teams of three; ring quoits in the same way; indoor baseball for the girls and boys in separate teams, also long ball for the boys; as well as volley ball and basket ball, for both, are good. In order to keep up the interest in the games, tournaments should be arranged in each of the more highly organized ones, and the score kept from day to day.

The school playgrounds are not as a rule well adapted for athletics, but there is usually opportunity for the broad and high jumps and the short dashes, at least. The dashes can be run on the street, if it is in good condition, if there is no room for them on the playground.

The library is a feature in a number of playground systems. In most cases it is open during only one or two afternoons a week, and is in charge of a librarian from the city library. In a number of cases, also, the librarian is the regular playground director or a special director assigned to this work. It is a difficult situation because it is hard to keep track of the books and protect them under playground conditions. In some



FOLK DANCING IN THE PLAYGROUND, NEW YORK CITY

systems the children are not allowed to take the books home.

There are a considerable number of cities where there is a more or less extensive system of gardens under the playground authorities. The children are assigned small individual plots at the beginning of the season. They are furnished with seed, usually of five or six different kinds of vegetables. If the child attends to his plot, he is allowed to have all he can raise upon it, but, if he neglects it, it is taken from him and given to another child.

In some cases there is opportunity to use the manual training and domestic economy departments of the school in connection with the summer work. Where there is no opportunity for this, there is still in most cities a certain amount of industrial work. This is usually sewing, crocheting, raffia, and basketry. This so-called work is really constructive play for the children, and they will often forsake their games for it. It has come into the playground chiefly from three causes, —first, because the children get tired of playing active games after a time and want to sit down and do something more restful; and second, because the older girls often come in with a small child and have nothing to do themselves; and third, because there is considerable hot and rainy weather when the children cannot play outside.

In some cities there are considerable dramatics; in some there is a period of singing; and in not a few, there are childrens' bands or orchestras.

During the first years, excursions were a feature in most of the large playground systems. Some of these were very ambitious, as the trip of the Philadelphia children to Atlantic City in the summer of 1902, and the trip of the Chicago chil-

dren to Milwaukee by whaleback steamer. Such trips are becoming less frequent, but there is more and more attention being given to walking and camping trips.

Programs. — The program is the course of study of the playground, but it seems inconsistent with the idea of play, and, in a sense it is. Play demands freedom as its vital spirit. If it be forced into a rigid time schedule, there will not be much play left. Nevertheless, a program is essential to achievement. If we do not know what we want to do, we are not likely to do it, and, on the other hand, definite ideas always tend to become facts. It has been said we should always have a program, but we should never use it. If we will say instead, we should always have a program, but we should never be bound by it, we shall not be far wrong.

Four different kinds of programs are necessary. First of all, there must be a general program for the season, which will be made out very likely by the supervisor of playgrounds. This will determine in general what is to be done, what games are to be played, what dances danced, what athletics there will be. It fits the time of the playground specialists, the story tellers, the teachers of industrial work and the others into the plan of the day for the different playgrounds. This is necessary in order that the children may be there when the specialist comes. Many children come to the playground only for certain things and at certain times, as when the older girls come in for the industrial work only, or for the folk dancing, or for some other special feature. Unless they know when these things are to be given, they probably will not be present.

In order to keep up the interest and get the children to practice, it is almost necessary to have exhibitions of the work about once a week. It is well to make this something of an

event; to invite the parents to come and to have the papers send representatives, if they will. These programs serve as the best advertisements that the playgrounds have. They interest the parents and tend to increase the attendance.

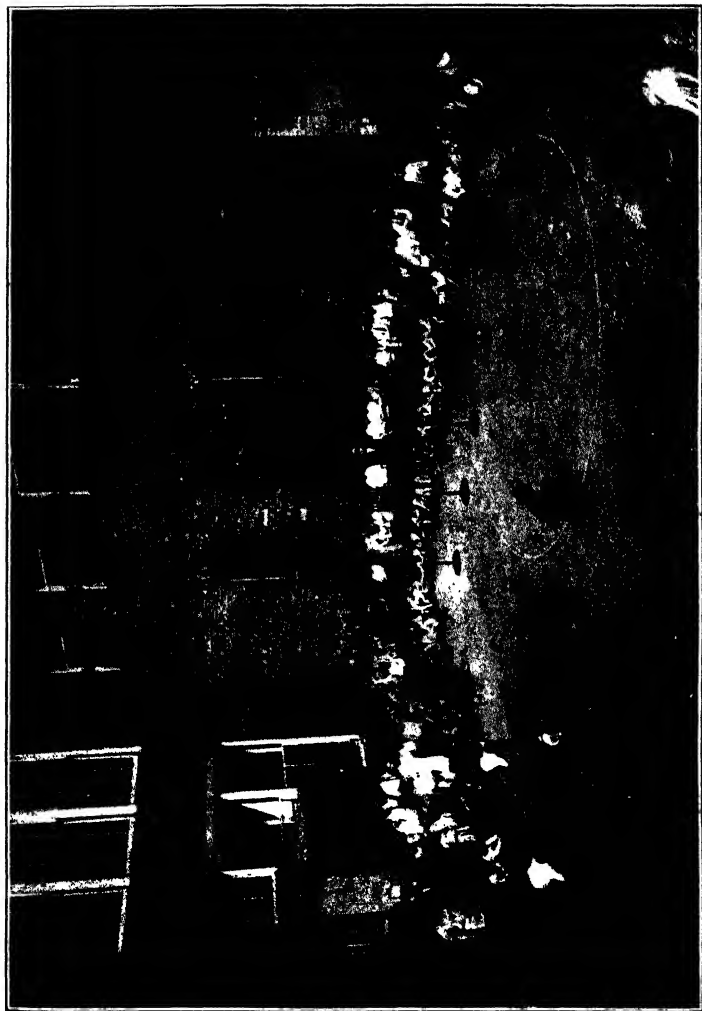
A third is what may be called a special program. It is a program for rainy days, or for holidays such as the Fourth of July or Labor Day, with a little pageantry if possible. At some time there may be a school excursion or picnic. There must also be a schedule or program for the different teams, as there will not otherwise be any regular play.

But by far the most important program is the daily program, which is made out each day by the director to cover the work of the day.

Tournaments and Contests. — The playground that is a loafing place of children is not a great advantage. If it is to be an educational force, it must be made interesting and it must secure training. The most effective way to do this is a series of tournaments. Children who are playing listlessly are not getting much out of it. It needs a social incentive behind the individual incentive. The first tournament that should be organized is always the tournament on the home ground. The purpose should be to make play more interesting and victory more desirable. Every boy and girl should be got into some contest or other so far as possible, and tournaments should be run in each game and athletic event. These will do several things. They will increase the interest, advertise the playgrounds, and bring in new children who had not been coming. They will set a new standard of achievement and get the children to practicing. They will develop loyalty to the playground and to the teams. In short, the tournament serves as an incentive for all those sorts of training which

the playground should give. In order for them to be successful the various events should be early listed that the children may understand just what to train for. Great care should be exercised in the events chosen, as the contestants are mostly young and inexperienced. It is very easy to do harm by setting races that are too long and by strenuous games of basket ball for half-developed girls. After a series of home tournaments have been run off, it is well to have a few contests with other playgrounds, in order to keep up the enthusiasm and set new standards of excellence.

Team Games. — On nearly all playgrounds there will be room for basket ball, indoor baseball, and volley ball at least, and these games are likely to be the most important activities carried on there. But it must not be thought that these or any other games are necessarily team games. A team game is a game that is played with a team spirit for a social victory. But the players in any game under the sun may still play a perfectly individual game, seeking all the time individual distinction. In order to have real team games, the teams must be permanent, for team play involves leadership, loyalty, and friendship, and these cannot be secured from scrub teams. The scrub team has no permanence. There is no reason that a boy should be loyal to it and he never is. The scrub team secures no practice and teaches no rules. It is utterly unreliable and may not be trusted either with supplies or in its conduct. It has no record to maintain. The permanence of the teams, therefore, serves as one of the best measures of the success of the playground. In order to secure permanent teams, the members of the teams must be friends or at least agreeable to each other. They should have a captain with some qualities of leadership, and they should have a name and



POTATO RACE WITH RING TOSS EQUIPMENT, SCHOOL PLAYGROUND, NEW YORK CITY

some regalia. A uniform is best, but a button or a ribbon or a cap will do. The team game offers the surest and easiest training in loyalty and many of the social graces, so that it is well worth while to put a good deal of effort and ingenuity into getting as large a proportion of the children as possible on permanent teams. All of the training of the team games is intensified, as the team becomes permanent, and it begins to take part in tournaments and contests with other teams.

Attendance. — As the attendance at the playground is voluntary, it serves as one of the best measures of its popularity and success. It might appear that if the city furnished the playground, the children should furnish the attendance without more ado about it, but, in matter of fact, they do not. The playground has to be made attractive and to furnish to the children the things they want or they will not come. The very largest element in this attendance is likely to be the personality of the director and his ingenuity in organizing interesting activities.

It is necessary to keep as accurate an account of the attendance as possible because this serves as the best basis of an appeal for funds. It is the proof whether or not the playgrounds are reaching the children. It is difficult to do, as the children come and go, and the attendance at five o'clock may be almost entirely different from the attendance at three o'clock. The teachers are apt to think that the children come nearly every day and that they stay for several hours each time. There are always certain children who do, but the majority do not. The attendance in almost any playground will be largely different on Tuesday from the attendance on Monday, and the attendance in the afternoon from the attendance in the morning. The children do not stay much over an hour and a half in

general and there is always a large proportion who do not stay that long. They are usually counted at the time when the numbers are the greatest both forenoon and afternoon, and the two counts added together. The numbers given will seem like an exaggeration to any one who passes the playground at any particular time, but they may in fact be much less than the actual number of different children who have been in the playground during the day.

In most cases there is no attempt to register the children. This is always difficult, because they vary so greatly from day to day. But it is necessary to register those who are entered for contests at least in order to be sure of their eligibility, and in order that they may be sent for if they do not appear when they are supposed to take part. A child also feels a new sense of responsibility, as soon as his name and address are taken. It is often a great help in discipline.

There have been a number of studies to show how far the children come to the playgrounds. They all show, of course, that this depends largely on the age of the child. The small children do not come much over a block unless they are brought by older children. The effective range of the school playground in general is not more than a quarter to one third of a mile. Just how far the children will come is also an almost direct measure of its attractiveness.

The successful playground director labors constantly to build up the attendance. He must do this by making it interesting, by keeping something in the papers, by arranging tournaments and contests and play festivals.

Discipline. — The conditions of discipline are difficult on the summer playgrounds, because there are large numbers of children who are mostly unknown to the teacher. They



OCCUPATION PERIOD. MOTHERS AND BABIES. PLAYGROUND, NEW YORK CITY

come and go as they please, and there is no punishment that can be inflicted. Discipline is absolutely necessary, however, if the playground is to do good rather than harm. If it becomes a mere loafing place, if the ideals and conduct of the bully and loafer prevail, it will always be a dangerous place for children. The only way that the play leader can establish standards and enforce them is through discipline. Conditions are, however, very different from what they are in the school-room, and schoolroom methods will either drive the children or the teacher from the playground.

There are three general principles of discipline which are essential to the larger success on the playground, just as they are also to the highest success in the classroom. The first of these may be called preventive discipline. It consists in keeping the children so busy and happy that disorder does not arise. We have come to see that the only effective method of dealing with the problems of health is the preventive method, we now know that the only effective policy in regard to the criminal is to create social conditions out of which crime does not arise, and it is no less true of discipline. One of the essential conditions is that the children must like the teacher. She must take a personal interest in them and be friendly with them. The teacher who looks down upon them as "Sheenies" and "Dagos," or who holds herself aloof, will have her hands full all the time.

A second method of discipline is what we may call the suggestive method. For the most part we follow their own suggestion in the treatment which we award others. Certain people expect to be obeyed and that expectancy gets into their voice, their gesture, the whole attitude of their personality, and the children obey this unconscious suggestion. There

are others who apparently have an equally strong conviction that they "are not going to be obeyed." They give every command with a question mark after it. Their whole attitude suggests disobedience, and the children obey this suggestion without realizing what it is. These teachers usually have a constant problem of discipline in the schools.

The third form of discipline is discipline through the student body. Public opinion is always the only really effective check on conduct in a democracy. The great difficulty with the discipline in the schools has been too often that the child made himself a hero by being disorderly, and the other children "egged" him on. When the other children begin to tell him to "cut it out," it ceases to be any fun to be naughty. If the teacher succeeds in getting the full coöperation of the children, so that they take an active interest in the affairs of the playground, this will reduce active discipline to a minimum and will create a spirit which is itself the sort of attitude toward law and the public welfare that is the basis of all good citizenship. No teacher can create this spirit unless she is popular and the children think she is personally interested in them and is working for their welfare. Sometimes a system of student discipline similar to the system commonly known as the "school city" is used. This organizes the playground like a real city with a mayor, council, judge, jury, and policemen. The policemen arrest the violators of the rules, and they are tried by their peers for the offense. The penalty is usually exclusion from the playground for a longer or shorter period. This is excellent training in debate and in weighing evidence. It often gives the children a new sense of ownership in the playground, and a punishment inflicted by his peers is often felt more keenly by the child than a punishment inflicted by

the teacher. Where there are a considerable number of capable older boys and girls, it is well worth while, but it must not be thought that the system will run itself and the playground. There has to be a *deus ex machina* as of old. Exclusion from teams or the ground is almost the only form of punishment practiced in the summer playgrounds, but it is always possible to consult the parents or even to hale the children before the juvenile court if their conduct exceeds the limits of endurance.

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CHAPTER XIV

THE SCHOOL CAMP

THE school playground for the school year seems to be an ultimate thing, but we may well question the vacation playground as final. The fact is, that we adults do not wish to spend our summers in the city when our work does not make it necessary. Our attention is constantly distracted from the heat and the discomfort by the work we have to do, but for the children with nothing but idleness on their hands it is ten times worse. The summer playgrounds have come as a great relief but not as a real solution, because the children do not stay in them for more than an hour or two a day, and for the balance of the time, conditions are as they were. They are on the hot, dusty, and increasingly dangerous streets. The good effects of the school year are oftentimes dissipated by the influences of the summer.

Civilization has grown away from the life of nature, but we all seek to get back to it to rest. During the long summer vacation, the heat in the tenements makes them well-nigh unendurable, and the streets are like ovens owing to the reflection from asphalt and brick. The surplus of idleness always leads toward delinquency. Rest and quiet growth, the greatest needs of the children, are difficult under these conditions. Neurologists generally hold that such a life leads to degeneration in two or three generations.

The child is being injured by these adverse conditions, on the one hand, and, on the other, he is missing his natural birth-

right of field and stream and meadow. He is failing to get that touch with nature that alone can awake the old racial memories and stabilize his nervous system.

Existing Camps for Children. — For the average parent it is often not possible to make suitable provision for his children during the summer. The summer hotel is expensive, and children are unwelcome there. The artificiality of the life and the attention they receive are both bad for them. If the family have a country home, there is little fault to be found, except that for part of the summer at least it would be better for the parents and children to be separated, in order that the parents may rest, and the children may gain the self-reliance that comes from a more independent life.

During the last two decades, the number of camps for school children have been increasing rapidly, and during the last three years, the Boy Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls have given this tendency a new impulse. In Germany and Denmark, many thousands of children are sent to the country every year at public expense. There are a few municipal camps in this country, and sixty-five cities report camping as one of their playground activities for the summer of 1913. There are also camps that are conducted by a number of private schools. However, all of these are but a drop in the bucket so far as the children are concerned; probably less than one per cent of them are reached.

The municipal and playground camps are very new and more or less experimental. They are usually located on ground leased for the season, and all of the equipment and arrangements are of a temporary nature. It is not feasible to erect permanent buildings or to construct swimming pools, tennis courts, and such apparatus on leased ground. Children who

are to camp out together should be friends, otherwise they get homesick and do not enjoy themselves. There are various special problems that grow out of such an absence from home and ordinary restraints. The people who are in charge should know the children well. These conditions cannot be adequately met where the children are selected from the summer playgrounds. But the most serious trouble is that the playground camp usually keeps the children for two weeks only, and, for the balance of the summer, the child is still in the city. It is worth while having a bite if you cannot have a meal, but we must remember that it is only a bite.

Judging from a very limited experience, it has seemed to me that the children are not at their best in the fresh-air camps. They feel terribly homesick at first because they are not merely away from home and their parents, but very likely away from all their friends and acquaintances as well. Fully half of them would go back to the city the first night if they could. Then, too, they feel irresponsible. They realize that they are not known. They are aware that this trip and this camp have no connection with anything else in their lives.

In the institutional camp the children usually know each other, and are under the direction of people whom they know. They have a good time, but the camp is usually for two or three weeks only.

The camps of the private schools, the Boy Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls are all fine and are doing a real service to the children whom they reach; but the Scout Masters and the Camp Fire Guardians often cannot afford the time or money to go out and camp with the children.

The Summer School. — We are living in the era of the summer school. Nearly all of our universities and normal

schools now have their summer session, and there are the summer conferences of the Y. M. and Y. W. C. A's., and summer Chautauquas in many cities. Nearly all of our larger cities now keep at least a part of their schools open during the summer as vacation schools. These numbers are increasing rapidly, as is also the sentiment for a longer school year. The summer vacation is only about five weeks in length in England and on the continent. Gary now has a four-term school year with a regular summer session. The city undoubtedly needs to make some more lasting provision for the children than it has thus far done in most cases. However, to immure the child again in the old type scholastic school-room would be to effectively cut him off from having any experience and to prevent his education. The summer session should be supplementary to the work of the year and should train those qualities that have been neglected. If the summer session might be in the country and devoted largely to industrial and social training, it would be ideal.

The School Camp. — As every one knows, the English ideal of a school is a boarding school in the country. From the time he is nine until he finishes the university, the son of an English gentleman lives at the school and sees his parents only in the vacations. The English educator claims that this life is necessary in order to secure the social and moral training which comes from a many-sided contact of the pupil with his masters and fellows. We in America do not accept this ideal. We believe that such an extended separation of parent and child is bad both for the home and the younger children; but it does produce manly, self-reliant young fellows. Schools of the English type, such as Groton, St. Paul's, and Lawrenceville, are rapidly springing up in this country. We regret

the absence of social life in our public schools. We regret the slender opportunities for friendships between pupils. We regret the absence of traditions and a special spirit, such as distinguishes the boy at Eton or Harrow. We regret, most of all, the lack of intimate contact between pupil and teacher.

The summer camp offers an opportunity for the union of these two kinds of training. It may well take up the social, moral, and athletic work which is so important in the English school. Certainly to me, the school seems to be the best attachment for the camp idea. I should like to see each of our large city schools possess a farm in the country as a part of its regular equipment. On this farm, there should be dormitories or cottages sufficient to provide for all the older pupils. Soon after the schools have closed, children should be sent out to these farms for the summer, either at their own or public expense, as the circumstances demand.

Work for the Boys. — This would furnish an opportunity for training in all of those old industries which the home once had, but which it has lost with the growth of the factory and the narrow specialization of life.

The child who has never had this training has missed much. Of all kinds of work that are available, perhaps farm work is the best. It is the oldest trade or business of civilization. It has far the largest number of workers. It deals with simple fundamental things. It is almost endlessly varied in things to do, and each change of the season and the weather means a change in occupation. These are characteristics which every educational work should have.

We all regret that the children no more have the training which they once had from the work and duties of farm life. Our systems of domestic economy and manual training are

but feeble attempts to restore to them the fundamental education which they once got from the farm home and its duties. As we all know, children may become actual wage earners and a source of profit on the farm, especially in the raising of vegetables and fruits, at an early age. The labor unions always object to anything that looks like competition with the workers by any public institution; but they are all interested in the schools, and they probably would be willing that the school should run a truck and fruit or a chicken farm and greenhouse in the edge of the town, or better a few miles out, and become a regular source of supply for these stable articles. This might help to reduce the high cost of living on the one hand, and it would make it possible to furnish this training to all children at little expense. The doing of actual things is always more educational than manual training.

There are a good many children who are spoiled by their parents, and there are a good many parents who are spoiled by their children. They are so tied down that they never have a new and stimulating experience. If the children are to learn self-reliance, they need to be away from home a part of the time. If they might all go out to the school farm about the first of June, it would enable them to work more or less profitably there, and would give them most of the advantages of having been brought up in the country. The food of fresh vegetables and fruit raised by the children would not be expensive, but it would be the most wholesome sort of a diet. If the children also do most of the work about camp, the expenses will be reduced to a minimum. Children from nine years of age on are perfectly competent to care for chickens, to tend and gather fruit, flowers, and vegetables. Four or five hours of work a day would be advantageous to the older chil-

dren, though the hours might be a little shorter for the younger ones. There would be difficulties in getting efficient farm work out of children brought up in the city, but these difficulties are not insuperable. On the farm that is conducted by the Gary schools, the children are charged four dollars a week for their board and room and paid fifteen cents an hour for the work they do. At the Interlaken School at La Porte, Indiana, the children do the farm work without pay of any kind. But it must be remembered that, even if the work of the children did not yield any profitable return, it would not be much more costly to board them on a farm of this kind than it would to board them at home, and it would be sure to be vastly better for the children.

There is a great humanizing influence in the care of animals. Children always personify them, so that it has almost the same effect as though the child were caring for a dependent human being. All children love to feed pigs and chickens and gather the eggs and do other similar tasks; the care of an animal is an ideal type of duty to develop a sense of responsibility and reliability. If the pig is not fed, he squeals. He is an accusing conscience for all neglect. The person who has never in childhood had definite duties of this type to perform less often grows up wholly dependable.

Work for the Girls. — Such a camp would offer an almost endless variety of practical occupations for girls of just the kind that girls ought to have. Girls can feed the chickens and gather the eggs as well as boys. They can pick strawberries and raspberries quite as well. For a good share of the gardening, they are at no considerable disadvantage; and they would have the whole domestic work of the camp to themselves. There would not be a better place to learn about

vegetables surely than where you raise, gather, and prepare them yourself. Doubtless there must be a head cook of experience, but the children could prepare the things, set the tables, wash the dishes, sweep, and make the beds, and the older girls should be able to do a considerable amount of the cooking itself under the supervision of the cook and the teacher of domestic science. Even the waiting at table should be a valuable training in gracious service.

It might not be best for the boys and the girls to live at the same camp. But the two camps might well be on the opposite ends of the same school farm. Perhaps the girls might mend the boys' garments as well as their own. There might be some objection to this, but it would be a valuable training both in sewing and in a sense of service. The boys might in return be expected to do various things for the girls.

The Playtime. — If the afternoon were left free for recreation, the greatest varieties of activities would be available. If the farm were properly placed, it should have somewhere on it a natural swimming hole, where the boys could go in naked. Very likely there might be some opportunity for fishing. There should be ample fields for baseball and ample courts for tennis, volley ball, basket ball, and croquet. A summer tournament in each of these games could easily be arranged and a high degree of enthusiasm maintained. Occasionally one camp should walk over to a neighboring one for an all day's tournament in all the games and events in which they have been training. This would furnish a splendid opportunity for teaching the spirit of hospitality and the social graces.

For those who did not wish to devote themselves to athletics there would be the possibility of all kinds of scouting, of

making nature study collections, taking long walks to places of interest, bicycle trips, and so on. For the girls there would be the opportunity of having Camp Fires. At several times during the summer there should be picnic suppers and a real camp fire around which stories might be told and songs sung. Story-telling after supper should be a regular feature three evenings a week at least.

It would be very desirable if there might be at the camp a simple auditorium or theater where entertainments could be given in the evening. It is good for the children to take part in amateur dramatics. It makes them realize events and life more vividly than anything else can do. There might well be some good music on the phonograph or victrola one or two evenings a week and on one or two evenings there should be moving pictures.

Educational Advantages. — The development of the hand has been closely associated with the development of the brain, and the child who has grown up without any work to do is greatly handicapped. Most of the men who have ever amounted to much in later life have done a good deal of manual work in their early years. At the Interlaken School and the various similar schools that are scattered over Europe, manual work is made compulsory for the sons of the rich purely for its educational value and its training in democracy. The educational value of a summer so spent may not be lightly estimated.

If a small library of children's books were sent out from the city circulating library at the beginning of the season, it would give a practical opportunity to read, such as most children do not have during the school year. It seems likely that on rainy days, Sundays, and evenings, a large amount of

reading would be done. This should contribute greatly to the interest in the camp life and the school work during the year.

The Teachers. — The school camp should always be in charge of a regular teacher from the school who knows the children and their antecedents, and it should also have a number of the other teachers, because such a camp would furnish an opportunity for a real personal influence such as the school year had not given. Such camps would furnish the sovereign opportunity for normal students and college men and women both to get experience with children and to spend their vacations in the country. It would offer at the same time sport and a sort of training that every young man and woman should have whether they are to be teachers or parents. It might well be required of all normal students as a part of their preparation. Under this arrangement, with a few strong disciplinarians from the home school, it would be possible to run the camp largely on volunteer or, at any rate, low-paid help.

Existing Experiments. — This plan was outlined more than ten years ago and without knowledge that anything similar to it had been undertaken anywhere, but there have since sprung up a number of camps which are similar to it. The Interlaken School at La Porte, Ind., is an example of a school in which farm work is the basis of the educational scheme. At Gary, Ind., the school system owns a farm, and a summer camp is also maintained. The plan in Dubuque, Ia., which is known as Park Life, and which has been promoted by one of the school principals, Mr. Horsheim, is also of a similar nature. All of these schemes have worked well and have attracted wide attention.



INTERLAKEN SCHOOL STUDENTS, CUTTING ICE ON SILVER LAKE



BOYS' CABINS, ON INTERLAKEN SCHOOL GROUNDS,
ROLLING PRAIRIE, IND.

Other Uses of the Camp. — The camp of the school might also have a wider use during the year that would be no less important than its summer use by the school children. It might well be a week-end camp for the Boy Scouts and Camp Fire Girls, the haven for the brief vacations of working children, or clubs from the social center, or others who wished to go out of the city for a few days' outing. It would be a convenient terminus for walking parties from the city and would make it possible to promote walking trips of several days' duration, as is done in Germany. There would be difficulties in the way of turning such a camp into a hotel on a moment's notice, but the difficulty should not be insuperable. It would offer almost the only kind of vacation that it is possible for working people to have, for it would often be possible for them to pay for their vacation by working a part of the day on the farm or in the kitchen. It would thus furnish an opportunity for the development of a real neighborhood life through having their vacations together. There would, of course, need to be a capable family in charge all the year round, and there would need also to be certain regular helpers, for it should be possible to send delicate or insubordinate children out there at any time during the school year, as they do in Gary. If parties wished to come for an evening or a week end, they must, of course, notify the camp in advance of their numbers and the length of time they wished to stay. It might be necessary to require that all guests should do a certain amount of the work themselves, which would help rather than hinder the development of sociability and a common spirit.

A part of the camp might be used during the school year as a home for convalescents from the hospitals or as a sani-

tarium for those who needed the fresh air, but its most important service might well be as a cheap hotel for working people, who had a few days to spend in the country.

Summary. — The activities that have been outlined would not necessarily involve a great increase in expense. The school camps would take the place of the vacation schools, summer playgrounds, and the fresh air and institutional camps. The parents would be saved the expense of the children's board and would be given a new freedom that all parents need at times. For the child who is now sent to the country, it would be a great saving in money, and for the child who ordinarily has to remain in the city, it would be a great saving of life's energies and a great awakener of its interests. The children from the poorest sections would attain a normal growth, the nervous children would become less so, and nearly all would come back in a more robust state of health. The experience of the summer merely as education would be quite as valuable as anything the school year had to offer. The only really serious impediment to the scheme is the idea that public institutions must not produce anything at a profit, which might prevent the profitable marketing of any excess production of such farms. In actual fact a series of such farms might well offer an effective method of dealing at the same time with the problem of the unemployed and the excessive charges of local grocers. To say that a city has not a right to do this, is to deny it one of the most fundamental of human rights.

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CHAPTER XV

THE SCHOOL AS A SOCIAL CENTER

WHEN the term "social center" is used, it is the adjective that usually appeals to people as significant. The social center is a place for sociability or social endeavor, but in actual fact it is not the adjective but the noun that carries the central thought. The social center is to be the focus of community interest, whether these interests be social, educational, political, business, or what not. Neighborhood or community center is really a better name. The community must be organized if it is to carry on community undertakings, and social life is to be made attractive. It is impossible to have this organization unless there is some common meeting place. Of course it must be admitted that this ideal of the social center is not at present wholly realized anywhere. But it is believed to be in line with the development which is now taking place throughout the country. There is, however, a very great difference in the use of the term in different cities. In one city perhaps a parents' association meets at the school every other week, and this school is spoken of as a social center. These meetings are legitimate social-center activities, but they are scarcely sufficient to justify calling the school a social center. The Sage Foundation and the Playground Association make the distinction that a social center must have one or more paid workers besides the janitor. This does not seem to be a vital distinction, as the social center is supposed to

represent the activity of the community in its own behalf. Ideally all the service should be volunteer service, but under existing conditions this is generally unreliable, and some paid service is necessary. This does not really tell us, however, anything about what a social center is. The activities as organized at present are of three chief kinds, educational, social, and civic.

Educational Activities. *The School for Adults.* — The old-time school sought to furnish us in childhood information and skill enough to last us through life; the school of the future will seek to furnish us the information and skill, like our meals, as we need them, and each period of life will have its own education, that is adapted to the needs of the period. Professor Barnes has said, "The period of compulsory education should be from six years old to eighty."

It is not easy to distinguish between certain activities of the evening school and the social center, and it does not seem important that this distinction should be drawn. The evening school for adults should be an important part in every social center. To the immigrant, it should teach English and the requirements of naturalization; to workmen, it should give the instruction that would make them more efficient; to the working girls, it should teach the science of the home; to all women, it should give instruction in the care and feeding of children; and to men and women, both for their own sakes and for the sake of their children, it should give instruction in the hygiene and physiology of sex.

The Public Lecture. — The public lecture is perhaps the simplest way of bringing the latest information in every field to the public. There were, in 1914, one hundred seventy-seven lecture centers in the public schools of New York City,

where they have been under Dr. Henry P. Leipziger from the beginning. Many of the lectures are illustrated with the stereopticon, or, if they are musical, by song or piano. The centers are mostly in the midst of immigrant populations who do not understand English well, but they are usually well attended. There are more than four thousand lecturers. The idea has spread from New York, until there are now more than fifty cities where public lectures are carried on under the board of education. These lectures are not as a rule considered a part of the social center activity, although they quite obviously belong to it, as they are for the community and the community as a whole. In a number of places the social centers have lectures of their own, depending largely on unpaid local talent. The public lecture should become in time a feature at each of the centers, but the lecturers should be paid by the board of education.

The School Exhibition and Theater. — A semi-educational feature of many social centers is the school exhibition and theatrical. Every child is a little actor. He always imitates everything he sees that interests him. It is his way of comprehending what the thing is really like, to get on the inside of it and sense its real nature. The kindergarten is built on this dramatic impulse. The readers that are now being introduced into many of our most progressive school systems are dramatic readers, and acting is coming to have a larger and larger place both in our schools and playgrounds. This furnishes an opportunity for the schools to give a valuable entertainment to the community, and to make school work more interesting, to bring the school and community together, and oftentimes to raise money for specific purposes at the same time. The children's theater as a separate institution is also

being promoted in several quarters and is finding increasing realization in such theaters as the one in the Washington Irving High School of New York and others.

The theaters of Greece and Rome were public institutions, and at present many of the best theaters of Europe are subsidized. The dramatic form of representation is the one that is nearest to having the experience. It is a form of expression neither good nor bad in itself, but good or bad in its effect, according to what it has to say. So also there is probably no other way in which the taste is so rapidly depraved as by attendance at low theaters. The Shakespearean performances of the Ben Greet Company have shown how easy it is to give the great dramas without elaborate scenery. The time should soon come when every classic play studied by students will be represented by or for them on the stage. Shakespeare's plays are acted very extensively by children in the Council Schools of London.

Moving Pictures. — But to the credit of Thomas A. Edison be it said that he has brought the theater to every man's door. In Boston there is a moving picture machine at each of the social centers, and there are now a large number of cities where the moving picture exhibition is a regular feature. Nearly everything that has to do with the study of geography, history, biography or the processes of industry can be represented more perfectly through the moving picture than in any other way. Ofttimes a historic event can be portrayed in fifteen minutes by the moving picture so that it will never be forgotten, while the mastering of the lesson from the geography or the history is a laborious and time-consuming process in the first place, and the record is likely to be written upon the sand. The full-sized moving picture

machine costs about \$300 and the films are rented usually at about a dollar each per night. The great difficulty, however, is in securing suitable films, as the great majority that are furnished to the common picture theaters are mere dramatized dime novels. If, however, a number of acceptable films are marked in the film catalogue of any company, and they are requested to furnish films from this list, it is certain that good films can be secured from almost any company.

There has been a great deal of criticism of the moving picture as a vicious influence in the community, but in the study that was made of the various forms of theatrical entertainment being offered in New York, which was made by Dr. Davis for the Russell Sage Foundation, it was estimated that something over ninety per cent of the burlesque shows being given in the city were vicious and immoral in their influence; that thirty to forty per cent of the vaudeville shows were of the same nature; that ten or twelve per cent of the supposedly best shows being given in the high-grade theaters were of similar kind; but that only eight or ten per cent of the moving picture shows were objectionable, — thus placing the moving picture at the head of the list in regard to its moral influence. In actual fact, the moving picture films that are being presented in our cities are very carefully censored for the most part. The National Bureau of Censors in New York City censor a very large proportion of all the films, but many of the cities have also a censoring bureau of their own. So far as the moving picture theater is a bad influence, this does not come to any considerable degree from the pictures, but from the vaudeville acts that are run between the films.

It does not seem to be appreciated, however, that the great menace of the moving picture just now is not on the moral

but on the intellectual side. The moving picture is probably our most effective means of instruction, and at least one third, and possibly one half, as many people are attending the moving picture show each day as are attending the public school, and these people are getting pretty much their whole plan of life and instruction in regard to every sort of subject from these films. It is vital to our educational system that the films presented should not only be moral, but that they should also be accurate, so far as they undertake to represent life. A short time ago I saw a film representing the story of "Ivanhoe." There was scarcely a detail in the picture that was true to the story of Scott; and there are many supposedly historical scenes that are likewise inaccurate. The impressions imparted through the moving picture are so much more vivid than those imparted through the printed page, that it will be difficult to correct the wrong impressions that are given in this way. It is well known that the profits on the moving picture business at the present time are nearly one hundred per cent a year; and if there is any business which might well become a government monopoly, it seems to me that it is the making of moving pictures. It is highly appropriate that the government should at least regulate very closely this business, because it is reaching the people and imparting ideals and sentiments and instruction to the adult masses more effectively than any other agency.

It is possible through the moving picture to throw upon the screen anything that can be seen through the microscope, so that we may follow the internecine struggles of the microscopic world and see far better than through the microscope itself the minutest forms of life. It is also possible to set the moving picture machine so that it will move so slowly that

a series of pictures will show a flower opening before us, and a building arising and being completed as if by magic in ten or fifteen minutes of time. Some of the newer films show life under the sea and the resplendent fishes of tropical waters swimming among coral forests. Recently a film has been brought out under the title of "Cabiria" which gives a wonderful picture of the Temple of Moloch in Carthage, shows a caravan crossing the desert, Hannibal bringing his elephants through the snows of the Alps, and a wonderful picture of the storming of a great city. It is said that this picture cost two hundred fifty thousand dollars to produce and that there are more than seven thousand people in the cast. It is certain that it must have been expensive and that it gives a picture of life, customs, and war in the time of Hannibal such as it would be almost impossible to present in any other way.

Under the Brooklyn Institute some six social centers have been maintained during the past year, and these have been supported almost entirely from the proceeds of the moving picture exhibitions which have been given in connection with the social centers. The charge has been only five cents, and a superior grade of pictures has been shown. We must realize how great is the possibility of progress in this direction. In a free auditorium that will seat a thousand people it would be possible to pay forty dollars an evening for the film and still furnish an entertainment at five cents to the public. The moving picture solves the problem of attendance at the social center.

Mr. Edison has recently placed on the market a small machine, the home kinetoscope, which is intended for use in private houses and in individual classrooms. He has a large number of men at work adapting the lessons in the geography,

history, and even the arithmetic for this machine. He expects that this is to revolutionize the teaching methods of our schools and make it a delight for the children to attend. He says there will be no truants from a moving picture school. The Home Kinetoscope with attachments costs \$75 and can be used with either acetylene or electric light. The films are rented at twenty cents to one dollar per night, or sold for from two to twenty dollars. The mechanism is so simple that it can be handled by any intelligent child of twelve. The film, containing the same number of pictures as the regular thousand-foot reel, is only eighty feet long. It is non-combustible, and the machine is cheap enough, so that almost any social center or school can afford one. However, it has more flicker than the larger machine, and is not altogether satisfactory, but it can be used to advantage in a hall that will seat from one to two hundred people. Doubtless all of the defects of this machine will be corrected, however, before this appears in print, and it may be perfectly adapted for educational ends. The films for the small machine are of a much higher order than the ones for the large machine. There should be a separate exchange for the schools and another for the churches, in order to avoid the dime novel films. The large school systems and the state departments must soon own their own films and send them around from school to school.

The new Edison phonograph or disk machine is so nearly perfect that it is difficult to distinguish the voice from the machine from the voice of one speaking. The disk machine and the new victrolas make it possible to have very acceptable concerts at the social center at a trifling expense. A good moving picture and phonograph program very nearly solves the question of attendance.

We are accustomed to speak of the school as a preparation for life. Every period of life is preparatory to the period that comes after, but to think of any particular time as only preparatory is to degrade it. Education is a process of intellectual digestion, and it is no more possible for us to learn enough during childhood to last us for the rest of our lives than it is for us to eat enough. The world is forging ahead so fast that he who ceases study for five years becomes a back number. Many of us have suffered from intellectual dyspepsia ever since our college days from our overeating at that time. The mind has a very limited capacity for mental assimilation, and the psychological time to digest any mass of knowledge is when we feel the need of it. This cannot come at any one period of life, but must come in about equal degrees through all. The social center is making it possible through its evening classes, its educational theater, and its public lectures for the adult to continue his education to the most advanced years and to acquire the information when he has need of it.

The Civic Center. — The City of Rochester has become associated with the idea of the social center organized for civic ends. This work as organized under Professor Forbes and Professor Ward consisted of a series of neighborhood civic clubs, which met at the schools. The city officials were invited to tell of their departments, and out-of-town speakers to discuss various civic problems. Mr. Ward holds in his book, "The Social Center," that its real meaning is that it is the meeting place of the electorate, that it shall be the voting headquarters and the place where all sorts of political questions are discussed, to the end that the people may have a genuine part in the government and the boss may be eliminated.

Our present forms of democracy remind one of the great image which is described in the Book of Daniel. "His head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms were of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, and his feet part of iron and part of clay; and a stone smote the image upon the feet that were of iron and clay and brake them in pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold broken in pieces together." This image might represent America nearly as well as the empire of "the great king." In the original democracies of Greece, the freemen met together in the market place to elect from their friends and acquaintances the officers to be chosen and to determine the policy of the state. The logical democracy is the one that combines these primitive units into larger and larger wholes until the world is included. The weakness of the American democracy is that we have not organized this primitive element or demos on which it is supposed to stand. Politics in our cities have been corrupt, because there have been no meetings of the community to discuss community affairs.

The last few years have seen a rapid advance through the initiative, referendum, and the recall, through the presidential primaries and other measures; but the fundamental unit is still unorganized. The feet are still of miry clay. To secure the popular rather than the boss control of the community or district is our great political problem. This demands that some agora, forum, or neighborhood center shall be provided.

Perhaps the most important feature at the Rochester centers was the civic debate. The debate was once a feature at the meetings at the country schoolhouse nearly everywhere. These debates were on academic subjects such as Free Trade and Protection, capital punishment, and the like,

subjects which were not the practical problems of the people who discussed them. We know how to select more practical themes now, and to make the debate lead to results in the community. The debate that is likely to result in some action is likely to be much better merely as a debate than the one that is merely academic; and the civic debate which will cover the practical problems of the community should be a feature at every social center.

The Center for Sociability. - - We have thus far had no city communities and no general method of meeting people or organizing the social life. The individual has often been reckless in conduct, because he was not acquainted in the section in which he lived and had no social accountability to public opinion. Foreigners have come among us and drifted in and out of the city slum, bearing with them their racial antipathies, and casting no anchor in the community, because at no time have they become a real part of it. If they have sent their children to church schools of their own race, the second generation has often found them nearly as foreign in language and customs as the first.

In the country sections the situation is little better. In the days of the pioneer, the early settlers were drawn together by the common dangers and necessities into a brotherhood of the wilderness. The schoolhouse was the common center, where the Sabbath services, the debates, the music school, and the spellings down were held. These conditions have undergone an almost complete change. The farmers are no longer united by common dangers. The specializing of industry and new machinery has made them independent of their neighbors. The community uses of the public school have fallen away, and there has resulted an almost com-

plete isolation, which has made industrial organization difficult and the country socially unattractive.

The working part of the population must take their recreation at night. It is then that the theaters, the dance halls, the pool rooms have their chief patronage, and it is then that temptation most assails the boys and the girls. The evening center of sociability is needed much more than the day center.

Every Facility for Healthful Recreation should be Open Then.
— There has been the largest development of recreation features in New York City. In the winter of 1914 there were sixty-seven recreation centers open largely for five evenings a week and with three to ten paid workers at each. In visiting the centers, one enters a large and noisy room, designated as the "quiet game room." Here are checkers, dominoes, crokinole, and authors, and a desk supplied with papers, magazines, and books. This room is usually crowded. The visitor passes through into the gymnasium, where there is likely to be basket ball and tumbling with occasional calisthenic drills. Upstairs are several classrooms used for study by children who have no opportunity to study undisturbed at home. These rooms, usually two, are in charge of a regular teacher who gives such assistance to the children as is needed. Then there are usually three or four rooms used as the meeting places of clubs. These clubs are of great variety, with the gymnastic, debating, and dramatic clubs somewhat in the lead. They elect their own officers and usually have from ten to twenty members. There is a paid club leader in charge of the clubs. There are only three centers in New York where the boys and girls are admitted together. The others are either boys' or girls' centers. At the girls' centers there is much the same organization as at the boys' centers, with the

exception that there is more dancing and perhaps somewhat more attention to literary and dramatic clubs. For the last three or four years, a number of these centers have been opened one or two nights a week for mixed dancing.

During the summertime, a number of the school roofs are kept open for concerts, dancing, and games. These roofs are about the coolest and most comfortable places that can be found in the lower city on a hot summer night. Ofttimes the doors have to be closed early because there will be on the roof as many people as it will hold with safety.

The centers in New York are in general spoken of as recreation centers rather than social centers, and the roofs in summer are called recreation roofs or roof gardens. There are, however, four centers in New York where the management is largely in the hands of local committees, and these are known as social centers. The workers are all, however, paid by the board of education, and the supervision is under Superintendent Edward Stitt, who has charge also of the vacation schools and playgrounds.

The centers in Boston are interesting and more or less distinctive. There are probably no others with so much music, as there are choral clubs and orchestras in nearly all. These are often mixed clubs of girls and boys and furnish, with their intervals for conversation, a very wholesome social opportunity. In all of the Boston centers the girls and boys are admitted together. This seems to me to be an advantage. There are too few opportunities for a wholesome social life between the sexes in the crowded parts of the cities. It has been said that "Every girl has a right to be courted under decent conditions," but the tenement bedrooms and kitchens do not furnish such an opportunity.

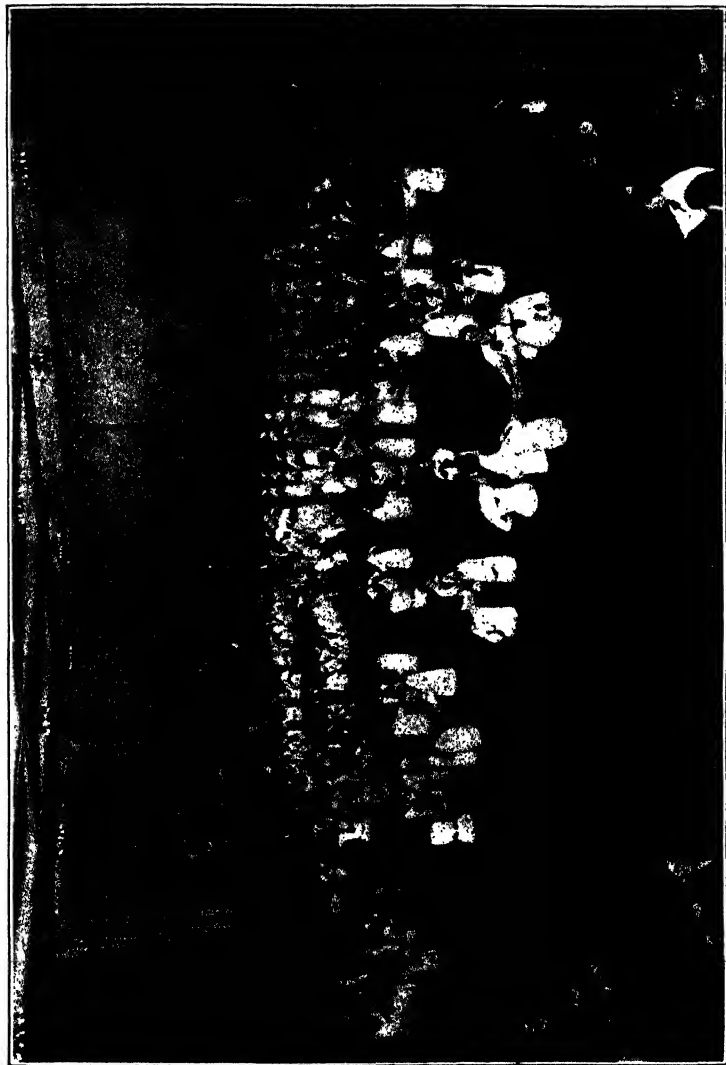
They keep close track of the attendance in Boston, as each person has a membership ticket which is punched at the door. This enables the young people to prove from their cards that they went to the center rather than elsewhere. There is also a gatekeeper, who sees that no intoxicated or objectionable people come in. There is an employment office, at at least one of the centers, which is suggestive of the way the problem of unemployment might be adjusted in a socialistic community.

The social center offers a good opportunity for the organization and meeting of the Boy Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls. A club with a definite purpose is always better than a club which is merely a club with nothing definite in view. It should usually be possible to have a special room for these activities, and the social center should develop the spirit of service which would provide the Scout Masters and the Guardians.

The social center offers the best possible opportunity for the organization of various community celebrations such as Hallowe'en, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

The social centers are attempting different things in the different cities, but in most the gymnasiums at least are kept open, and largely for games and dancing. In places where social dancing is not permitted, it is often possible still to have folk dancing, and the girls always enjoy this. Singing is one of the most popular features. In Philadelphia where the centers are under the auspices of the Home and Parents' Association, and a number of other cities, tea and sandwiches are often served at some time during the evening.

In the centers in New York, those in attendance are nearly all in their teens, but in a number of cities, the social center



BOSTON EVENING CENTERS. FOLK DANCING. ROXBURY

takes nearly the whole family, or at least all of the older members. This undoubtedly furnishes the most wholesome social life that may be found. There is not likely to be anything very objectionable where the fathers and mothers meet with their children.

Forms of Organization. — In New York, the social centers are organized by the board of education and all of the workers are paid by them. But this plan does not seem democratic. It is best, where possible, for the general management to be in local hands, even though there are certain services paid for by the school board and supervised by it. A parents' association often furnishes an excellent nucleus for a beginning, or it may be a school improvement association or a mothers' club or a woman's club or a recreation or social center association. When the social center is once under way, the management is often vested in a council to which each of the senior organizations elects a representative. Professor Ward advises that the principal of the school be employed as the civic secretary of the social center and voting precinct.

The social centers are at present usually under the superintendent of the playgrounds, and may be said in general to constitute their winter activity. In the park playgrounds of the South Park System, the work is out of doors from the first of May to the first of November and indoors in the field houses or social-center buildings during the remainder of the time. This is a great advantage, as it enables the work to be carried on continuously and the workers to be retained for the year. In each playground and field house in the South Park System there are from fifteen to thirty-seven employees. The school is usually able to handle as large or larger an attendance with from five to ten employees.

The Socialized School Building. — In order for the school to become the real center of the community life, it is necessary to have a somewhat different type of building. The social end must be held in view.

The Socialized Classroom. — Most classrooms are not suited for the meeting places of adults, because the desks are fastened to the floor, and they are too small. The high school has peculiar advantages for a social center because the desks are larger and better suited to adults, and the young men and women prefer to go to the "high school" at night rather than to an elementary school, from which they may have graduated. The high school usually has a good gymnasium and auditorium and sometimes a swimming pool also. In many places the kindergarten room is being used, because it is not permanently seated, and the kindergarten chairs are easily moved out and larger chairs brought in. But some of the classrooms in the new schools are likely to be seated with the Multhrop or other movable desk, that can be moved out at once if the floor is needed.

The Social Room. — If the school is to be the center of the social life of the community, the people's club, it should have certain rooms that may be used for social purposes. I am not sure that there should be smoking rooms as there are at the clubs, but at any rate there should be rooms that are open evenings and suitably seated for general conversation and social purposes.

In Houston, Texas, some of the new schools contain rooms especially constructed and furnished for the mothers' clubs. These rooms are usually adjacent to the domestic science room, so that it is possible to have tea and sandwiches or to serve some other light refreshment.

Most of our new school buildings contain teachers' rooms, and some of these are very fine and commodious. There might be objection to using these as social rooms for the neighborhood, but such objections are likely to be selfish ones. These rooms are admirably adapted for committee meetings at least and for the council that will determine the policies of the social center.

Pool, Billiards, and Bowling. — If the school is to be the people's club, the simplest and most direct way to begin is to copy the existing institutions of like nature rather than to wait for a wholly new social institution to be developed. Features that are found at nearly all men's clubs and boys' clubs are billiards and pool, and, at some, bowling. The sort of simple billiards that is found at the boys' department of the Y. M. C. A. and in the boys' clubs is found also in the social centers of Boston, where the tables are laid down on top of the regular desks in the classrooms. The evening that I visited these centers was Ash Wednesday, and the centers were in Roman Catholic communities, but all of the classrooms devoted to billiards were full. The tables were of the folding kind that were put away in the closet as soon as the games were over. But it is easy to seat a classroom with movable desks, which would make it much more suitable for such use. The billiard and pool halls about town are generally connected with saloons and are used as a means of promoting drinking and smoking. They often become the resort of the gang where neither the talk, the conduct, nor the moral atmosphere is elevating. Billiards at the school would be the easiest way to meet this situation. There is a prejudice against billiards and pool in many church quarters on account of the company they have kept, but no one can well object

to them as games. They are games of pure skill with no element of chance. Bowling has the added advantage, that it is also good exercise and that men and women, boys and girls, can play together. It has the disadvantage of being noisy, but it may be so placed that it will not disturb much.

The Dance Hall. — Undoubtedly dancing is coming in. The opposition of the church and of all the social organizations has apparently served only to promote it, and the dances to which there have been most objections have apparently been the ones that have become most popular. Heretofore, the dancing in most cities has been largely in saloon dance halls and all the conditions have been bad. Dancing has a social appeal that cannot well be escaped, it breaks down the reserve between people and helps to make them acquainted. It offers the charm of intimate personal relationships with the other sex. It appeals to the love, the adventure, and romance of youth. There is always the possibility that in the dance you may meet the prince or princess that the Lord intended for you. But the saloon dance halls of the city are run to promote drinking, and the drinking lets down inhibitions, just as the dancing tends to promote sexual desire. The most objectionable dances are likely to appear and the place tends to become the resort of the prostitute and the cadet. All too frequently there are private rooms available either at the hall or near by. There are certain dangers that are inherent in the dance. All of these the dance hall emphasizes and preys upon. What is a socially minded community to do? If it becomes certain that dancing is going to be, it seems the part of social wisdom not to attempt to dam Niagara, but to find some easy way over the falls. The young people in the years immediately before us are going to dance

whether we believe in it or not. It is our part to make dancing as safe as possible. There can be little doubt but the safest place is where the parents and the children meet together, and also, as Professor Ward has said, "where dancing is only one item on the program of the evening." Dancing is a feature at many social centers throughout the country, but there are also many where it is not allowed. In a number of cities dancing is conducted by other city departments, as noticeably in Chicago, where it is the chief winter activity in the field houses; in Cleveland, where municipal dances have recently been conducted in the parks; and in Philadelphia, where municipal dance pavilions have recently been built. These are not connected with the schools, and it can scarcely be hoped that conditions will be as good as they might be in the schools. In the Washington Irving High School in New York there is a municipal dance hall. The city may well take this seriously. If the young people are to dance, they should learn the right kind of dances, not the turkey trots and the grizzly bears, and they should learn which styles of dancing are permissible and which are not.

The Restaurant. — If people can sit down around a common table, the meal serves to draw them together. The school already sells lunches to the children. It would be no very great departure for it to serve simple refreshments to the people of the social center in the evening. This would allow clubs to meet for supper and to have light spreads for dances.

In many of the schools of Houston, Texas, the Mothers' Clubs have been serving each day at noon a five-cent luncheon to the children. This luncheon usually consists of a thick soup, a vegetable or meat, and bread and butter. It has been sold regularly at five cents, and out of the profits of these

luncheons they have made all sorts of improvements at the school in the way of purchasing play equipment, pianos, victrolas, stereopticons, and the like. In the city of Portland, Ore., also, a noonday luncheon has been furnished at a number of the schools which has been on the whole perhaps somewhat more elaborate than the one in Houston. It has been sold at a commutation rate of four cents a luncheon, and the profits have been two or three hundred dollars a year. It must be seen that where there is no rent to pay and the service is furnished gratis, it is possible to serve meals at a very much lower rate than would be possible for a private firm. There is also a municipal restaurant in the Washington Irving High School and at least the Emerson School in Gary. There are numerous municipal restaurants in the parks of Chicago and originally there was one in each of the field houses. These did not prove financially profitable in Chicago, but they were at a distance from the residences, and the attendance at the field houses is much less than it is at the school centers. There might be objection from commercial interests to the starting of a restaurant by the school, but the school has at least as good a right as a private club and there is no reason for thinking that it need to be unprofitable, especially as the school has to have the restaurant anyway for the lunches of the children. This would furnish an opportunity to correlate the domestic science of the school and the center with practical cooking and the serving of meals in ways that should be helpful to the girls and young women. Even the waiting on table in such a community restaurant would be a valuable training in social service, such as every girl should have. This would make it possible to operate such a restaurant very cheaply.

The Hartford Experiment. — Of their very interesting experiments in making the parks of Hartford self-supporting, Superintendent George A. Parker says: "I started in with the assumption that there should be no profit, that the refectory was truly park service, and that all money received should go back into that service. I improved the quality of the supplies, increased the quantity, added to the wages of the waiters, doubled the pay of the head waiter, and employed a manager. I also made certain restrictions as to the use of the service, and thought I had done everything necessary to eliminate all possible profit. Imagine my surprise at the end of the year when the profits, even under these conditions, were something over \$1200.

"My second experiment along that line was tried at the park skating house last winter. There was an old sheepfold near the pond. I lighted and heated it, made paths to the ice, in one corner put in a checking system and a short counter where we sold articles, at a cent apiece for the most part — the highest was five cents for 'hot dogs' and coffee and chocolate. We had no expectation that the thing would pay. It is true that we had a very favorable skating season. Yet you can imagine my surprise again, at the end of that season, to find that that little ten-foot counter had paid for all the service rendered, as well as for heating and lighting the building, for a hockey rink, for a double-headed curling rink, and in part for keeping the ice free from snow.

"Moving pictures are an important feature of recreation work. We had a plan for showing moving pictures in the Colt Park pavilion in the late afternoon and evening, using the same room for other purposes at other times. If the charge were three cents admission on weekdays, with free admission

on Sunday afternoon and evening, however we figured, and even after paying the fee to get into the League so as to get films, it seemed as if we could not avoid making \$150 a week, try as we would. Should we charge five cents admission, the profit would be almost double."

"One of the saddest things is that recreation, which is absolutely necessary for the life of human beings, is being so largely exploited for private gain. The tendency is to exploit all recreation, and especially through that to exploit the children. I cannot see how the city can avoid taking up a certain class of recreation, using it as a municipal function for the protection of its rising generation. Even then, we leave four fifths of the recreational expenditure for private enterprise."

Mr. Parker says the city can furnish all of these things more cheaply than the individual can because it has no dividends nor interest to pay, and is able to buy very cheaply, because it is such a large purchaser.

The School Dispensary. — Undoubtedly in the poorest parts of the city, the school is the best place for a dispensary for non-contagious diseases and especially for clinics for eye, ear, and throat, and for the care of the teeth. This would place these in each community where they could be found, and it would then be possible to give the children in the school, who need attention, the attention at once.

The Auditorium. — The auditorium is the one room in the school that makes possible a school spirit, because it is only in the auditorium that all the pupils may be assembled at once. The auditorium is necessary also to the social center, where it makes possible the public lecture and the public debate, the school entertainment and exhibition, the municipal theater, concert, and picture show.

The Branch Library. — Our public schools and especially our summer schools are greatly hampered by the lack of library facilities. The school in order to be successful must create a love of reading, and a library is quite as necessary to it as it is to a university.

At present many of the people of New York do not know where the libraries are, or they are deterred from reading by the effort required to secure a reference and draw out and return the books. In taking up the study of geography and history, the children miss half the culture of the subject unless travel and historical stories and the lives of great men of the period are read in connection with them. It is these that make geography and history real and give them their great value for children; but how many schools have the books necessary for such study?

When the summer vacation comes, the only form of healthful recreation open to many is reading. Through it the child can leave behind the city's dirt and noise, to live in the land of dream and romance which books create. But we have denied the fairyland of story to him if the books are not within his reach. At present only a small proportion of the children have access to a library, and this is often so distant that little use is made of it. The reason is simple; the library is a strange place, and its methods are unknown. If the child, despite this, manifests a desire to draw out books, he must first get some one to be his security for their return, and this is not always easy for a child of laboring or foreign parentage. The library is not to blame for this. If it lets out books to unknown children without safeguards, the chances are not good for the return of the books or the continuance of the library. The school may safely trust the child because he is

a member of the school, known and responsible, when it would not be at all safe for the public library to give out a book to him.

Parents often have little time or inclination to go to libraries, but depend on their children to provide them with reading. If the library were a separate building in the school yard or a part of the school, it would be no task for the children to take out and return as many books as might be desired in the home. The growing use of the school as a social center makes it increasingly important that the branch libraries should be connected with the school. It will help to bring the people together both to read and to use the other facilities of the center, and the children should learn to use the library as a part of their education.

The Art Gallery. — If there is to be any art for the community, the school is the place for it. There it will be seen by the children by day and by the public at night and will perform a maximum service. There are at least two places where this is already carried out successfully. The first is at Richmond, Ind., where they began several years ago with holding loan collections in the schools. Then they set aside a certain amount each year for the purchase of pictures, until they now have a fine permanent collection. The second instance is in the Washington Irving High School in New York, where the main corridor of the school is hung with a loan collection from the best American artists. But the best solution of the problem seems to lie in a circulating collection of pictures that should be sent around from the central art gallery in the same way that books are from the central library. After a picture has hung on its peg for a time, we cease to notice it. If art is to be effective, it has to be fresh.

I understand that there is only one picture in any Japanese room, and that is changed every week, in the wealthy families. The state library commissions are furnishing loan collections of pictures to the schools in a number of different states, and it is quite in line with the general theory of development that the art galleries should do the same. The schools themselves are also purchasing many fine photographs and prints of old pictures and are fast becoming art galleries on their own initiative.

But at the rate money is going into art collections in this country at present, it will soon be utterly impossible for the galleries to house the collections they are acquiring. The picture does not wear out as the book does, and the gallery gets bigger and more meaningless from year to year; for there is really not much sense in an art gallery at best; pictures and statuary were intended to decorate buildings, not to be jumbled together in a vast art morgue such as our museums represent. The larger the art collection, the more bewildering it becomes. If it be desired not to create a great museum, but to have an art department for the city and to promote a love of the beautiful, the present method of housing all this beauty in a single great gallery is about the least effective method possible. A dozen good pictures make more impression upon any one than a thousand, and if a dozen were placed in each public school of New York, a hundred times as many people would see them there as would at the Metropolitan Art Gallery, and they would also see them more effectively. Of course there might be danger of their being stolen. I suppose the Mona Lisas would have to remain in the central gallery, but there are many pictures that would not be in great danger. There can be little doubt but the

community center, if there is one, is the place for the community art.

The School Museum. — City children who do not go out of town for the summer know very little of birds and animals except as they see them in the zoölogical gardens. It is difficult to teach children about bluebirds and robins if they have never seen them. Every school should have a small collection of birds and animals, which might be in part gathered by the children themselves, and in part furnished by the central museum. The Museum of Natural History in New York City is already furnishing cases of selected birds and animals to the schools under certain conditions. It would seem as though, in the course of time, it should be possible to greatly extend this service, as these collections are being enormously increased from year to year, and with the proper care there is not much destruction of the specimens.

The Gymnasium and Swimming Pool. — A number of cities are now building municipal gymnasiums and swimming pools. But as the children want to use the gymnasium and swimming pool during the day and the adults want to use them at night, it is not evident that two sets of gymnasiums and two sets of swimming pools are necessary. A gymnasium and swimming pool is a part of the equipment of nearly all our new high schools and many of our new public schools. The schools need these facilities for their own work. If they are furnished at the schools, they are furnished to every community and to all the people at a minimum expense of installation and care. If they are furnished as separate municipal undertakings, they are furnished to certain communities only, are used mostly during the evenings, and have a minimum use for a maximum expense.

The Public Park. — A public park in an outlying district is often inaccessible to four fifths of the people. It is paid for by all, but used almost exclusively by the few who live in the neighborhood. But it seems to be a fundamental principle of civic ethics, that if public improvements are to be paid for in the tax rate, they should be furnished to all the people.

The objector may say that the parks at present belong to all the people, and every one may visit them. But when can a laboring man find time or how can he get the money to take his wife and four or five children to a park that is some miles distant? The carfare alone would be from 50 cents to \$1 — a sum which he very often cannot afford. In questioning the children in one of the playgrounds on the lower East Side, I found that very many of them had never been in Central Park, and most of those who had been had visited it only once or twice. I suspect if the parents had been questioned, the proportion would have been much smaller.

With a small park in every community, there would be a place to which every mother could take a delicate child and keep it for a considerable part of the day in the open air. There is such a park in connection with each of the new schools of Gary.

Advantages of Such a Social Center. — In the plan proposed we have an extension of the school to include the private club, the dance hall, the restaurant, the dispensary, the library, the art gallery, the museum, the municipal gymnasium and swimming pool, and the public park. The school is the ideal location for all of these, because it is centrally placed in each community, and each individual would thus secure the advantages that are at present enjoyed only by a few. All of these features are either educational or recreational, and

justly belong to the school. Most of us feel, at times, that a great city is but a dreary place — that it lacks in warmth and human sympathy. We are strangers to most of those who live in the same apartment house with us. Out of this life with strangers grows an attitude of indifference to people in general. The higher social and moral graces can never flourish in such an atmosphere. There is a complete lack of social responsibility. The atmosphere of friendly interest and sympathy by which one is surrounded in a small town seems to be non-existent. Such a concentration of public utilities in each community would tend to strengthen the community life. It would facilitate acquaintanceship. It would moralize the community by reducing the influence of the saloon and the dive. It would develop a new patriotism and civic pride, because every one would feel that he was a vital member of the community. If the people be brought together for various social occasions, dances, music, school entertainments, we shall have in this center a real rallying ground of the people ; we shall restore to the city a community life, and to the individual a social responsibility. Such a center would do much to conquer the “ city wilderness ” and to moralize individual conduct.

We may well ask ourselves if the school is competent to take this great responsibility. The answer must be that at present the average principal is not competent, but new occasions produce new men. These new relations would bring the school and the home together, would give the pupil a new set of associations with his teachers and with study, and in every way would redound to the good of the school and the community. This would not necessarily mean a great increase of expense. Already we are getting the larger playgrounds,

the auditoriums, the gymnasiums, and the swimming pools in our new school buildings, but the cities are also building municipal baths and gymnasiums, small playgrounds, and public libraries in places that have no relationship to any definite community. It is mostly a question of locating without duplication the facilities that all need in places where they will be accessible to all.

With such a neighborhood center in every school district, the social and intellectual life of the community would become organized and directed to higher ends. The school period would be only the beginning of an education that would be carried on to old age. Vicious resorts would be largely killed by the counter-attraction of the school center. The citizen would become such a vital member of the community that civic pride and loyalty would be developed, and he would not consent that his city or ward should be misgoverned.

It may be said that this chapter is only an appeal to copy Gary. The most of it was written a number of years ago before so many of our educational ideals had been realized in the new Steel City on Lake Michigan. But undoubtedly Gary furnishes the best example that may be anywhere found of this combination of features. The new Gary schools have classrooms with movable desks, auditoriums, gymnasiums and swimming pools, branch libraries, a public restaurant, and a park and playground twenty acres in area.

The Washington Irving High School in New York, which has also been referred to a number of times, has been much written about. Its principal, William McAndrew, is probably the best-known high school principal in America. He is one of the most original of our school men, and one of the best-known speakers on educational platforms. The Washington

Irving High School is probably the largest high or elementary school in the world, as it has six thousand five hundred girls in regular attendance. Besides being a regular high school, it has also a children's theater, a municipal dance hall, a municipal art gallery, and a municipal roof garden, and is a practical realization of many of the things that have been spoken of in this chapter.

A New Sort of Institution.—We have spoken of the "school as a social center," but in actual fact the institution that has been described is not a school, but a community center devoted to community purposes, of which the education of children is only one. It should be in use seven days a week for fifty-two weeks a year. It should be open for adults as well as children, by night as well as by day. Besides the building, it would represent the playground and park and the summer or school camp for the children, and be the center for all community enterprises, many of which have little, if anything, to do with education. It may not be necessary that these activities should be at the school, but the school is at present the one piece of public property that is central to each community. It may be said that this plan would require the tearing down and reconstruction of most of our school buildings. To give an education for twentieth-century needs requires a twentieth-century school, and the twentieth-century school already contains many of these features, and a rapid development along nearly all of these lines is already taking place.

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CHAPTER XVI

THE TRAINING OF PLAY TEACHERS

THE decisive factor in the success of the playground is always the teacher or director. He is no less necessary than the teacher to the school. With the right view point and purpose, he may be the determining factor in forming the social ideals of the children. There is no school in this country, at the present time, where an adequate training for playground positions is being given, and while the conditions are steadily improving, this question of an adequately prepared force of workers is still the crucial one to the whole movement. Can young people afford to take a course of training in order to prepare them for this work? What are the chances of a permanent position at a fair remuneration? According to the Year Book of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, there were, during 1913, in this country 6318 workers employed in the playgrounds of this country, of whom only 774, or a little more than twelve per cent, were employed by the year. These numbers are increasing at about the rate of twenty per cent a year. The social centers are also now furnishing many opportunities for all-the-year-round employment. As to salaries paid in the summer playgrounds, the schedule of Philadelphia may be taken as a fairly high average. It is as follows:

According to their ability, the principals, teachers, assistant teachers, and janitors are divided into three classes, namely, A, B, and C. The salaries paid for these classes are:

- (a) *Principals*, per month A 100.00, B 95.00, and C 90.00
- (b) *Teachers*, per month A 85.00, B 80.00, and C 75.00
- (c) *Assistant teachers*, per month . A 65.00, B 60.00, and C 55.00
- (d) *Janitors*, per month A 55.00, B 50.00, and C 45.00
- (e) *Caretakers*, per month, 25.00.

The salaries of substitutes per day are as follows :

Principals, \$3; teachers, \$2.50; assistant teachers, \$2.35; janitors, \$1.70.

The outlook from these facts alone would not seem to justify a person in taking a two years' course of training to prepare for a play position. However, these do not seem to me to be the really weighty facts in the matter. Play is coming into the program of our schools. The movement at Gary is only an index of a world movement. There are many cities that are making a beginning. To put the Gary plan into the schools of this country would require at least fifty thousand play teachers.

There seems every reason for thinking also that less special preparation for play positions will be needed as the applicants come to the schools, after having had a full play life themselves. The English master is probably the most successful play organizer in the world. He has played the games he teaches from childhood, but he has had no special training.

The Normal Course in Play.¹ — There are certainly fifty and there may be one hundred institutions in this country in which normal courses in play are now being given. These courses have nearly all been started since the issuing of the "Normal

¹ A list of fifty schools giving courses is given in a recent bulletin on Sources of Information on Recreation, recently issued by the Russell Sage Foundation.

Course in Play," which was published by the Association in the fall of 1909. Most of the institutions that have given courses have followed the syllabi of this course directly.

Courses now being Given. — Playground courses are being given at present in at least the following schools of physical education. The Sargent School at Cambridge, The Posse School of Boston, The Springfield Training School of Springfield, Mass., The Savage School of New York, The Physical Education Department of Teachers' College, and the School of Physical Education of Battle Creek, Mich., The School of Physical Education of Chicago, The School of the North American Gymnastic Union of Indianapolis, and the University Department of Physical Education at Wisconsin, Nebraska, Oberlin, California, Utah, Leland Stanford, and the University of Southern California at Los Angeles. Besides these well-known schools there are many others that are less known which are also giving courses. A considerable number of these schools send nearly all of their students into the summer playgrounds. In criticism of the work, it must be said that in all of them it is insufficient for a real preparation. The school which is merely a school of physical education is likely to attract people who care merely for the physical side. They often have an inadequate general education and a narrow outlook on life. None of these schools have adequate opportunities to practice in a real playground with children, and most of the students have no opportunity at all except in the summer time, when they are away from the school and cannot be supervised by it.

Nearly all kindergarten schools are giving some sort of a course on the playgrounds, though it is usually a very brief one. These courses offer little that may be regarded as a prep-

aration for general playground activities, though they are an excellent preparation for play with the little children. But the people who are giving the courses have not as a rule had experience, and there is almost never an opportunity for the students to practice in a playground.

The Schools of Philanthropy, in New York, Chicago, Boston, and St. Louis, give playground courses. They bring to the work one element that should be found in all, that is, the social viewpoint, which is almost as necessary as the technical training in games and activities; but the courses at these schools are too short to be a real preparation. They are usually weak on the side of the activities given or perhaps not given, and they all lack adequate opportunity for practice.

Besides these courses given during the school year there are also a large number of summer courses, and it may be very nearly taken for granted of any large summer school, that a course of some kind in play activities will be given. These courses are of necessity brief, but furnish an opportunity for many teachers to learn the games and folk dances that are appropriate to their playgrounds at home, and there is filtering out into the community in this way a large amount of information on the general subject.

The normal course committee prepared also for institutes in play for the training of the untrained workers of a city system. The Playground Association of America has arranged for a number of these play institutes each year. Usually some general play demonstration has been given by the city at the same time. These institutes have usually lasted for about a week.

While I was Supervisor of the Playgrounds of Washington, we always had a regular meeting of the play workers once a

week for a two-hour session. These were devoted to a discussion of the practical problems of the hour and a demonstration of the activities that were just then requiring attention. This was for the workers during the time the playgrounds were in operation.

In Philadelphia there is a very practical training course on a somewhat different basis. This is a preparatory course for those who wish positions in the summer. The course begins in the latter part of November and lasts for twenty weeks. The meetings take place every Friday night at 7.30 and last until 10.00. There are one theoretical subject and two practice subjects presented each evening. The course lasts for two years, and is open only to regular teachers and those who have had at least two years of training at the city normal. There are thus fifty hours of training each year or one hundred hours in all. A fee of one dollar each year is charged for the city teachers and five dollars for outsiders. There are far more applicants than there is room for each year. All appointments to the playgrounds are made from this training class. Mr. Stecher regards this work as a great advantage to his teachers, not only for the summer, but in their work for the year as well. This is, it seems to me, one of the most practical courses now being given in this country.

Comparison with Training Courses Abroad. — When we compare the work that has been done in this country with what has taken place abroad, we find that it has followed much the same lines of development. A normal course in play was introduced into the University of Berlin in 1894. In the *Jahrbuch* for 1912, which is mostly of the papers given at the annual meeting in Heidelberg, a course is spoken of at that university, and it seems probable that something is done at most of the

German universities at the present time. The most common and important courses, however, in Germany have been play institutes of one week which have been held each year in all the principal cities under the auspices of the Central Committee. Some sixty thousand teachers have taken these courses. During the last few years, courses are being given in all the public normal schools, so that there is now less demand for these institute courses. So also a great many cities during the last five years have been giving courses similar to the one in Philadelphia.

There is no regular training for play positions in England because the masters have already had the training in their own school days which enables them to play the games successfully with their pupils. The range of activities in these English playgrounds is not as wide as it is in ours, but within their own limits, the English masters are undoubtedly the best trained play leaders in the world. They are skillful in the games, have imbibed the spirit of sportsmanship, and love to play. They have developed the good comradeship in play which is so essential to real success.

Who shall have Charge of the School Playgrounds? — This is the question that is fundamental to the whole situation. There are three possible answers. All the teachers during the school year may have certain of their periods in the yard. Thus play will come in on the same basis as drawing and arithmetic and the other regular subjects. It is this place that play holds in the kindergarten. In the German, and the English systems also, play is mostly under the regular teachers rather than special teachers. There are certain advantages in this. The teachers need the play as much as the children, and out of their playing together is sure to grow a more inti-

mate relationship and a more effective and helpful personal influence. Unless we are to have the departmental system throughout, as they have in Gary, this is the natural method if play is put into the curriculum. Most of the public school teachers have not had training for play leaders, and many of them are too old to enjoy play. But normal students are now receiving a better preparation, and we may not take it as a foregone conclusion that the playground teacher is to be a special teacher. For the older children, just as soon as the departmental work is begun, they will naturally have special teachers in playground or physical training activities, as they do in other subjects, but it may still be a question if the regular teacher is not to be an assistant in the play, as she is likely to be in the drawing and music lesson where a special teacher is employed, and as the English master still takes part in many of the cricket games despite the professional teachers of cricket.

But beside the question of play in the curriculum, which may be considered as doubtful, we already have in a large and increasing number of cities the organized play recess and the supervision of play after school and during the summer. Every indication that comes from a well-nigh universal tendency and direction of development seems to indicate that in some of these forms the organization of play by the school will soon be universal.

There can be little doubt but that there are to be two classes of play leaders. The one class are to be the professional play directors or physical trainers who will give all their time to this work, and the other teachers who will have play as one of their activities only. This indicates that a longer and a shorter course are needed.

From all of these points of view it appears that the training of the play teachers should be undertaken by the public normal schools. If the play teacher is to be a regular teacher, then the training should become a part of the preparation of every normal student. If the play teacher is to be a special teacher, it appears still that she is one of the school specialists whom the normal school should train. The very large number of teachers who are already taking these courses at their own expense during the summer shows that they already appreciate this need.

Courses in the Normal Schools. — There are probably at the present time twenty or thirty normal schools that are giving a normal course in play. Cedar Falls writes that they have a twelve weeks' course during the year and a six weeks' course during the summer. These courses are mostly given at the present time by people who have been very inadequately trained. They are mostly brief and superficial, but on the whole they are the most hopeful courses being given. Physical training is a department of teaching, and there does not seem to be any reason why the physical trainer should be prepared by special normal schools. It is impossible for the schools to get the sort of physical trainers that they need unless they will themselves train them.

It must be remembered, moreover, that the physical side is only one side of play, and that it is really no more physical than it is mental and social and moral. Play is the spirit and activities of an earlier age brought down to the present. To have the play teacher trained only on the physical side is to have her very inadequately trained. The play movement has everywhere been promoted not primarily for physical but for social and moral reasons.

The playground director has constant opportunities to influence conduct and character, and he should be first of all a person of refinement and personal worth. It is essential to his having anything but a very superficial success that he shall have a social spirit. He has almost unlimited opportunities to shirk, because he can never be closely supervised in an isolated playground. It is better to have a fifty per cent director with a hundred per cent conscience than a hundred per cent director with a fifty per cent conscience. The person who is determined to be a good influence in the lives of the children may be inefficient in many of the playground activities and yet be a far larger influence for good in the community than the idle and indifferent director of whatever technical accomplishments, and furthermore the person who has the social spirit has the motive which will naturally lead him to acquire the requisite proficiency in the regular activities. We are more likely to get people of this type from the public normal schools than we are from schools of physical training.

The Training needed by Normal Students. — We already have in practically every normal school a department of physical training, and a certain amount of physical work is usually required. It would appear from the study of the catalogues of the different schools that the work is on a very different basis in the different ones, and that apparently the traditional training of other schools has simply been taken over by the normals, without any definite attempt to fit the work to their own specific problems. It is believed that the training which will really meet the needs of normal students will also give them the best sort of a preparation to have charge of the play activities of the children.

In order to meet the needs of normal students, a system of

physical training must satisfy at least the four following requirements: It must be recreation and a real relief from the work of the school. It must be real normal work, or, in other words, the training received must fit the student to carry on similar activities in the public schools. It must strengthen the teacher to bear that specific sort of worries and strains, to succeed in that type of activities that her profession will require of her later, and the activities practiced should be of such a sort that they will be continued after the student has finished her course. We cannot consider any person fully educated who has not acquired an enthusiasm for some form of sport.

The muscles are the organs of the will. The teacher needs a strong will in order that she may be a good disciplinarian or rather that discipline may be unnecessary. It is undoubtedly true of the men teachers as a whole that they are not of the strongest type and that they are relatively ineffective in the communities in which they live. If we wish to raise the teaching profession and make the teacher more influential, we must produce a more forceful effective type of a person. Athletics are a commonly accepted method of training the will.

The person who is nervous is nearly always irritable. She does all her work with the utmost wastefulness of life's energies, because she is always putting into the task more enervation than is called for. She is especially dangerous in the schoolroom, because nervousness is peculiarly communicable. This problem is a grave one in the American city, because of the constant overstimulation of the nervous system from the noise and the smoke and the speeding up of the machinery of the factory and of life, and because the American seems to be naturally of an active nervous temperament.

Teachers are especially liable to nervous breakdowns. Every normal student should be examined at entrance and at periodical intervals afterwards by a neurologist to determine her nervous condition. If he or she is of a nervous temperament, he or she should be advised not to choose teaching as a profession. A common specific for avoiding nervousness is open-air recreation.

Teachers are especially subject to indigestion. Open-air play is the best specific against it.

Tuberculosis is twice as prevalent among teachers as it is among people on the average, and, again, the best specific is open air.

Play. — There are some school boards that will not employ a homely teacher. A handsome woman merely as art is a far more effective decoration of a schoolroom than a five-hundred-dollar picture, and the teacher will set the standards and improve the appearance of all her children as the picture cannot do. It is considerably easier for a handsome woman to control a schoolroom than for a homely one. Her teaching also will surely be more effective when clothed in a beautiful face and form than they would have been without this accompaniment. The most fundamental thing about beauty is that it is an expression of vigorous health. It is health that gives the color to the cheek, the fire to the eye, and the vivacity to the features that make the charm of the countenance. Plenty of exercise in the open air is a commonly accepted specific for the glow of health and a good complexion. If this exercise also has the joy of play, it will bring the snap to the eye and vivacity of feature as well.

Grace is always an advantage to the teacher. The teacher who cannot stand or walk or run properly before her children

ought not to stand or walk or run before them. The young child is the person to whom these accomplishments mean most, and he is probably more critical of these deficiencies than his seniors, even though he does not express his criticism in words. Grace is developed from unconscious play and dancing. One needs only to get a company of normal students out to play a game of baseball to see how many of them need this training.

There is an advantage in the teacher's possessing physical strength even though she may never need to use it. The children have a great respect for physical prowess, more in the elementary period than they ever will have again. It is a good thing to be able to thrash an unruly boy even though we may not intend to do it. The consciousness of our ability gets into the confidence of our command, and that often makes the thrashing unnecessary. The unruly boy also is conscious of our ability and does not take so many liberties. It is the case of the armed peace, of building the battleships when there is no war. The teacher will exhibit her strength and skill mostly in games, and the strength that will be most effective is the strength that is so developed.

More important than physical strength, is the physical endurance which will enable the teacher to go through her day without weariness, that will leave her as fresh at four o'clock as she was at nine. Strength the teacher needs for prestige and a sense of ability, but endurance, a strong will, the ability to form easily relationships of good fellowship with her pupils, and a knowledge of the laws of sportsmanship, she needs constantly in her daily work. The training of endurance comes only through activities with a play spirit.

To most people physical training means gymnastics and a

gymnasium, but it must be seen at once that no system of training that requires a gymnasium or an expensive equipment to carry it on can be either normal or a practical training for our schools at present, for the reason that probably less than one per cent of them is provided with gymnasiums. However, most of the physical training which the women are taking in the normal schools is gymnastics inside the gymnasium; almost the only outdoor activities are occasional walks and tennis, which only a small per cent is playing. In general, the whole or nearly the whole athletic field is given over to a men's team, which represents the school. It would look, on the whole, as though the woman physical director had merely selected for her students the forms of exercise in which she happened to be most interested. It is evident that there has been no attempt to satisfy the specific needs of normal students. Scarcely any of the work that is being given can be used by the students in their schools after they become teachers. I have been unable to find a sentence anywhere that indicated that the school was seeking to give the specific kind of training that would enable the teacher to be effective in her profession, or that the fitness of the exercises to meet the needs of life which would consist much more largely of the years of maturity than the years of youth, was even considered.

The athletics are on no higher plane than they are elsewhere. But how are we to have sportsmanship in schools if the teachers themselves do not know what sportsmanship is? Every teacher should be required to play enough, so that she can tell whether the play of her pupils is good play or a disgrace to public morals, and, at present, the average teacher does not know.

It is believed that the only activities that can give the train-

ing that seems necessary must have at least three fundamental characteristics. It must be in the open air. It must be recreation as well as exercise. It must be fitted to give the specific training that is required. Gymnastics, in general, are physical exercise, but man has never in history had physical exercise; he has done certain things, and development has been incidental to achievement. To focus the attention on movements instead of purpose is nearly always to secure a large effort for a small result, and to throw out of joint the psychic factors on which all efficient physical accomplishment is dependent. The only forms of activity that can meet this need for normal students are games, athletics, and dancing. It is believed also that these are just the accomplishments that will enable the teacher to get into sympathetic relationship with children and that will give her prestige in the children's eyes. The English teacher is the most successful play teacher in the world because he has acquired in his schooldays both the technique and the spirit of play. It is also this same ability for the most part that makes him a strong personal influence in the lives of the children. The coaches in our private schools and universities may not always be high-grade men, but they are likely to be the most influential men on the faculty.

Practically all the students of our normal schools go into the elementary schools. During the elementary period, physical training is the most important subject, and during this time physical training comes mostly through play. The reasons for requiring the teacher to become proficient in the physical activities of the elementary period seem to me much more adequate than the ones that would require her to study methods in arithmetic.

I shall not presume to say definitely just which games and activities should be required, but it seems certain to me that they should be activities and not motions and that they should at least include the following :

Games for little children : baseball and football, basket ball, hockey, tennis, croquet, volley ball, indoor baseball, walking, swimming, skating, dancing, camping out, and the activities of the Scouts and the Camp Fire Girls. It is probable that election should be allowed to some extent from these activities, and that certain others should be added, but a two years' normal course should furnish the time for an elementary acquaintanceship with all these activities. There should also be some practice in running and jumping, for the men at least, and the gymnasium should be used at such times as it is not possible to get out of doors.

Every normal student should be required to have a general acquaintance with these activities, and for the ones who wished to specialize as play directors a higher degree of proficiency and more practice with children should be required, as well as some careful study of playground management and organization.

Value of This Training to the Teacher. — There are few things that will give a teacher more prestige than the ability to play a good game of baseball or basket ball or volley ball, and there is probably no other way in which she can establish so soon an intimate personal relationship with her children. Whatever games she is able to play will be directly helpful to her. I have given play courses in twenty-two different normal schools, and I find that many normal students and teachers in the summer schools do not know what to do when they have struck the ball in baseball. When they get the ball in the field, they do not know where to throw it. They do not

know when they are out, or when they have made a score. These teachers are ignorant of one of the most fundamental things in American life, one of the most determining things in American character, and probably of the very largest interest on the horizon of the public school boy. Baseball is our commonest theme of summer conversation among men; it occupies a page in nearly all daily papers. It is described in numerous magazine articles. It is called our national sport. It plays a far larger part in the common life of our people than the whole geography outside of a few local names, than the whole arithmetic outside the simplest operations, and the whole history of the United States. The teacher who is completely ignorant of baseball will complain bitterly if the boy does not master the rivers of Africa or the cities of Asia Minor, which are of no particular importance to anybody in this country, which do not enter into talk or literature once where baseball appears a hundred times. Surely the teacher who comes to her school in such a state of information is more fundamentally ignorant than her pupils. Can she expect to inspire much interest in her world of books if she is so ignorant of their world of everyday facts? Much the same things might be said of the other activities mentioned. They are the large things in the child world. They represent the skill that is coveted. Such knowledge and skill add dignity and even heroic qualities to the teacher. They represent also the spirit and desire of the child, and the teacher who is completely ignorant of them cannot speak the language in which the child thinks and aspires. Training in these activities is training a child to lead the life of a child, which is possible, instead of training him to lead the life of an adult, which is impossible.

Advantages of Normal Schools for the Training of Play Teachers. — Most of our new normal schools have the physical equipment to give these play courses more effectively than they are being given anywhere at present. They have excellent gymnasiums, and many of them have a good-sized campus for games and good swimming pools. They have a corps of physical directors who are of a good and improving quality. But the great advantages that they have over all the other schools for playground work especially is that they already have adequate facilities for teaching kindergarten games and industrial work, raffia, basketry, story-telling, dancing, swimming, dramatics, and pageantry, and most important of all they usually have a training department where there is an opportunity for all the normal students to get practice in play activities under actual playground conditions.

A normal school must be prophetic. It is training not for to-day or to-morrow, but it must train the students of to-day along the line of educational progress and fit them to lead the movement. They must be prepared for conditions that are to prevail five or ten years hence. All the indications are that the time is not distant when we shall require the teachers to organize the play of the children during the recesses at least. The teacher of the future must be a good physical type, a healthy, robust, wholesome man or woman, with large sympathies and large acquaintance with life. Her main business will not be to teach arithmetic, but rather to train individuals. She will teach arithmetic, but she will also teach baseball. She will see that the relationships of the children to each other and the spirit of helpfulness and friendliness are quite as important as anything that she can teach them, and she will not seek to so monopolize the child's time with the set sub-

jects of the curriculum that he has no time to be a child and gain the experiences of a child.

A Graduate Course for Physical Trainers. — There is also a demand for physical trainers of a more adequate preparation and for a new graduate school comparable with the law or medicine in its requirements to fit men to be the heads of university departments of physical training, to have charge of the physical work of school systems, and of the supervision of playgrounds. There is a demand for competent men in each of these fields, and almost no men available. It is the fact that there are almost no such men that makes the administration of university athletics so difficult, as it is also the great weakness of the play situation. If we might have a competent play supervisor in each city, he would in time be able to train the workers. The material for such a school is available. There is a large play literature in this country and a much larger one in Germany. The literature of physical training and school and sex hygiene is growing with leaps and bounds. When to this are added certain courses from the medical school and certain others from the departments of sociology and pedagogy, all of which are essential to an adequate training, it will be found that there is an abundance of material for three or four years of hard graduate work.

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APPENDIX

RULES FOR GAMES

IN submitting these few rules for common games, there is no attempt to give an exhaustive list of games, or detailed rules; but merely to furnish a general view with the simplest of directions. Every teacher who is interested in play should have either "Games for the Playground, Home, School, and Gymnasium" by Jessie Bancroft, or "Education by Plays and Games" by George Johnson, or "Play" by Emmett D. Angell. These books give a large number of games suitable for playground use. In general nearly all the kindergarten games are adapted to the play of the little children on the playground as well as in the kindergarten room. Of all of these, probably Soldier Boy is the most popular. There are also a great many singing games for children in the kindergarten and early primary grades. Excellent books for teachers who wish games of this kind are "Fifty Singing Games" by Mari R. Hofer, and "Folk Dances and Games" by Caroline Crawford.

For the more highly organized games, such as volley ball, indoor baseball, and tether ball, books of rules can be obtained from the Spalding Athletic Library at ten cents each. These rules are not very satisfactory, but at present are the only rules explicit enough to serve in the umpiring of matched games. There is no attempt in this book to give rules full enough so that they can be used for the settling of all disputed points.

Cat and Mouse. — Cat and Mouse is a popular game with little children the world over. In this game the children stand in a ring. The mouse in the beginning is inside the circle and the cat outside. The cat rushes around the circle and dashes through in order to catch the mouse. The players try to help the mouse by raising their arms or letting go hands in order to allow the mouse to pass through, but prevent the cat from passing with equal ease. When the mouse is caught, he in turn becomes cat and chooses his mouse from the ring.

Jacob and Rachel. — The children stand in a ring. One child is blindfolded, and if a girl, she must select a boy from the ring to be Jacob. She then says, "Where are you, Jacob?" and he replies, "Here I am, Rachel;" or they merely repeat the names, until Jacob is caught, when Rachel must recognize him from the tone of his voice or in some other way. After he is recognized, he is in turn blindfolded and chooses a Rachel from the ring.

Slap Jack. — The children stand in a ring. One child runs around the outside and touches another child. This child immediately runs around the ring in the opposite direction in an attempt to reach the place from which he started before the other child can do so. The game has a number of variations, but when they meet they often bow or shake hands or give each other some form of a salute. The child who reaches the original place first becomes a member of the ring, and the other child must touch another Jack, and the process is repeated.

Whip Tag. — The children stand in a ring with their hands behind them. One child goes around the outside with a knotted handkerchief, or a knotted towel, or something of this kind. He lays this whip, or "beetle" as it is often called,

in the hands of one of the children, who immediately pursues the child to his right and seeks to strike him with the beetle before he can get back to the place whence he started; when the second child in turn places the whip in the hands of a third child, and the process is repeated.

Drop-the-Handkerchief. — Drop-the-Handkerchief is one of the commonest of our games, though it is played in somewhat different ways in different places. The children stand in a ring, and a child passes around the outside with a handkerchief which he endeavors to drop behind one of them in such a way that it will not be seen. If he succeeds in passing around the ring and back again to the child behind whom the handkerchief was dropped before he has discovered it, this child is required to go into the ring. If, on the other hand, this child should instantly discover the handkerchief and be able to touch the runner with it before he can pass around the ring to the place where it was dropped, then the runner must go into the center. Sometimes it is played so that a large number of children may be in the center at the end, and sometimes the child who is in the center comes out as soon as another child goes in.

Bull in the Ring. — The children stand in a circle holding hands. One child in the center is the bull. He dashes across the circle as hard as he can and seeks to break through the ring, while the children hold each other's hands as tightly as possible so as to prevent this. If the bull should break through, the children pursue him, and whoever touches him first becomes the new bull.

Three Deep. — The children stand in two circles, one inside the other, so that the whole circle is two deep. One of these couples now steps out of the ring and one becomes chaser and

the other runner. Whenever the runner is hard pressed, he may step in front of any couple. The line then becomes three deep and the outside man must run. If he is touched before he can get started, then he becomes the chaser, and the former pursuer must run. If it is played rapidly, it may become a very exciting game.

Pom-Pom-Pullaway. — Pullaway is one of the commonest of all of our games. There are two bases or goals at the opposite ends of the yard. One child, who is "it," stands in the center and calls, "Pom-pom-pullaway, come away, or I'll fetch you away," when the children are required to run across; or he may call the name of a particular child, if he chooses. As soon as a child is caught he goes into the center and helps to catch the others. This continues until all are caught, when the first one caught becomes "it" for the next game. In some cases the catching consists merely in tagging; in others it is required that the child be touched on the back three times.

Prisoners' Base. — There are two goals at the opposite ends of the yard, and in the back of one of these goals or bases is a prison. A child from one side "gives a dare" by going as near to the goal of the other side as he thinks safe. A runner pursues him. If he succeeds in touching him, the first child becomes a prisoner and is placed in the prison at the back of the goal. But as soon as a pursuer starts after the child who gave the dare, a second child starts from the goal of the first party and seeks to touch the pursuer of the first child, and in turn a second child starts from the second goal to pursue him. It is only allowable to tag another child who has left his base earlier than the runner. After a prisoner has been made, his captor and he may return to the prison without being tagged.

When the child is placed in prison, he can be released by a child from his own side touching him while he has one foot inside. To enter your opponents' prison when there is no one of your side there, or to make prisoners of all your opponents, wins the game. It is customary to post a guard at the prison to prevent rescues from being made. When there are several prisoners, they are allowed by some rules to take hold of hands and stretch out from the prison as far as they can.

Circle Catch Ball. — The children stand in a circle with one child in the center. A volley ball or basket ball is thrown across from one child to another. If the child in the center succeeds in touching the ball while it is held by a child, or touches it while it is in the air, then the child holding the ball, or the child who last threw it, must come into the center, while the one originally in the center returns to the ring.

Dodge Ball. — Dodge Ball is played in many different ways, but a common way is to divide the company into two equal groups, one group forming a circle about thirty-five or forty feet in diameter, and the other group going inside. The game is to strike with the volley ball or basket ball the ones who are in the ring. Sometimes there is a time limit, and the side will secure as many points as there are children left at the end of the time chosen. When the time is over, the sides are reversed, the ones who formerly constituted the ring going into the center. The side having the largest number of children who have not been struck during the time agreed upon wins the game, or if all are struck, the side will win that held out longest. It is often played merely for the fun of dodging without making it competitive.

Captain Ball. — In Captain Ball, almost any number of players are divided into two teams. The ground, also, or

play space is divided into two parts. Circles about three feet in diameter are drawn upon the ground or the pavement. Inside of each of these circles is a baseman, and just outside of it is a guard of the other side, so that each half of the ground contains an equal number of basemen and guards, but the guards belong to the opposite teams from the basemen. Each side has a captain who usually has a somewhat larger circle than the others. The ball is thrown up in the center of the field much the same as in basket ball, usually between the guards of the captains' circles of the opposite sides. The game now is to throw it to one of the basemen in order that he may throw it to the captain. According to some rules, this is the only score. In others a score is made every time a baseman is able to catch the ball, and there is a much larger score if the basemen are able to pass it around to all the different basemen and finally to the captain; but the rules for the game differ considerably in different places. The basemen are not allowed to play outside their circles, though they may put one foot out. The guards are not allowed to enter the circle, but try to prevent the basemen from catching the ball. The violation of this rule by the guard gives a score to the baseman, by the baseman gives the ball to the guard.

Ring Toss. — Ring Toss, or Ring Quoits, is very popular in most city playgrounds. It is played with rope quoits and scores the same as regular quoits.

Duck on a Rock. — One child is "it." A stone, or block, or bean bag, or some other similar object, is placed on a stone or block. The other children throw, from a line marked off at some little distance, stones or bean bags in a way to knock off the duck. The child who is "it" endeavors to tag these players before they can pick up their ducks and get back to

their goal, but if the duck has been knocked off, he must replace it before he is allowed to tag any of the players. The child who is tagged takes his place.

Indoor Baseball. — Indoor Baseball is similar to the regular game, but the ball must be pitched underhanded, and the base runner is not allowed to leave his base while the pitcher is in position until the ball has been caught or has passed the catcher. With girls and small boys, it is usually played on a 27-foot diamond. With older boys and girls, where the game is played out-of-doors, it is best to use the 35-foot diamond, or even a diamond 50 feet on a side, for high school students where the 14-inch ball is used. It must be remembered, of course, that a baseball diamond is a perfect square. The front edge of the pitcher's box is thirty feet from the home plate, and the box is three by seven feet in size. The pitcher is supposed to start the delivery of the ball while both feet are on the back line of his box, but may take one step forward in the delivery. There are five sizes of balls, which are 12, 14, 15, 16, and 17 inches in circumference. Of these, the children usually prefer the 12- or 14-inch ball, but the 17-inch is more serviceable in a small yard or in any place where children are likely to be hit by it. The 17-inch ball also serves as an excellent volley ball in a windy country much better than the regular ball, and is better than the smaller ones for dodge ball and long ball.

Hockey. — Hockey is played on a field one hundred yards by fifty or sixty in size with a ball similar to baseball. There are eleven players on a side, five of whom are forwards, three halfbacks, two fullbacks, and a goal keeper. The goals are twelve feet apart with a cross bar seven feet from the ground. The ball is put in play in the center of the field, as it is in foot-

ball, each player standing with his left side toward the goal he is attacking. The object is to drive the ball down the field and between the goal posts under the cross bar. A net or wire screen is often fastened back of the goal posts in order to be sure whether the ball actually goes between the posts or just outside of them.

Soccer Football. — Soccer Football is very popular in England and Canada and is becoming more and more so here. It is well adapted to elementary and high schools. The ball is a round leather ball about the size of a volley ball. The game differs from regular football in that there is no rush line, and a person is never allowed to touch the ball with his hands or arms. It is passed down the field with the feet for the most part, though expert players will sometimes pass it for a considerable distance on their heads. The only person who is allowed to touch the ball with his hands or arms is the goal keeper, who may catch it and throw or kick it in defense of the goal. The skill of the game consists largely in passing the ball with very short kicks known as “dribbling,” so that the person keeps possession of it. When he is attacked so that he can no longer hold it, he seeks to pass it to a player on his own side. In American Football every player is under the direction of the captain, and almost every play is planned by him and the coach; in Association Football, on the other hand, the player must use his own brains. The player may get his shins kicked occasionally, but there is almost no danger of a serious accident, and the slight but active player is at no considerable disadvantage with a fellow who is much larger and stronger.

Volley Ball. — Volley Ball is usually played on a court 25 by 50 feet in size over a net $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. The ball may be

of sheepskin, horsehide, or canvas. It is a little smaller and about half as heavy as a basket ball. There may be any number of players, but matched games are usually played with from five to ten on a side. Before beginning the game all the players on each side should be numbered. Each player serves the ball over the net in turn. The server stands on the back line and bats the ball over the net with the palm of his hand. If the ball strikes the ground on the other side, it scores for the server; but if the receiving side bats it back and it hits the ground on the server's side, he is out, and a player on the other side serves. If the player fails to get the ball over the net or bats it out of bounds, he is also out. As usually played, twenty-one points are taken for a game, but it is sometimes played with fifteen-minute halves, the same as basket ball.

Newcomb. — Newcomb is similar to volley ball, but is played over a rope instead of a net, and the players throw the ball instead of striking it with the hand. Otherwise the two games are almost the same.

Tether Ball. — In Tether Ball there is a pole two and a half or three inches in diameter, thirteen feet tall which is set three feet in the ground. Six feet from the ground there is a black mark drawn around the pole. About three or four inches from the top of the pole, a screw eye is turned into it, and to this is attached a strong cord, on the end of which is tied a tether ball, which is a tennis ball in a sack made of fish cord. The ball should hang about two feet and a half from the ground. A ring six feet in diameter is drawn around the pole and a line twenty feet in length bisects it, so as to divide the space into halves. The ball is struck with tennis rackets. The player who gets the

choice of sides receives, while the other child serves. The game is won whenever the ball is wound up around the pole above the black line. To strike the pole with the racket, or to step over the line or inside the circle are fouls which give your opponent a free hit at the ball. It is an exceedingly vigorous game which requires only two players, but may be played with teams of three or five on a side. It is especially well adapted to small schools and country communities.

Tennis. — Tennis is played on a court 36 by 78 feet in size for doubles, and 27 by 78 feet for singles. Eighteen feet from the back line, a line is drawn across the single court at each end, and a third line is drawn through the center perpendicular to these lines and the net. This divides the play space into four service courts. The server stands back of the back line of the court and must serve the ball in succession into the service courts diagonally opposite to the one where he stands.

Folk Dance Equipment. — There are a number of folk dances that can be given in the school yard. The books of both Miss Burchenal and Dr. Crampton are specific enough so that the dances can be learned from the directions. The chief trouble comes from the music, but there are now a number of excellent victrola records for folk dances. The playroom is a better place for many of the dances than the yard, and there are some that cannot well be given in the yard.

Athletics. — In each school yard there should be a horizontal bar with sand underneath, a jumping pit full of sand, with a take-off board, and with jumping standards for the high jump. At the side of the ground or along the road, 50, 60, and 100 yard dashes should be laid off. It is best to have a stop watch whenever possible, in order that the time in races may be taken.

Potato Race. — The potato race is popular nearly everywhere. As usually run, each child has five potatoes or pieces of chalk or stones, or any other convenient objects, which are placed in a straight line about six feet apart, the first potato being a similar distance from the basket or circle from which the race begins. The runners must gather each potato separately and place it in the basket or the circle, the one who gets the last potato in first winning the race.

Relay Race. — Relay Races are always popular and offer an excellent opportunity to get a large number of children interested in running. As usually run, the children who are to enter the race are lined up in two lines back of some fixed starting point. They then run to some object which should not be more than thirty or forty yards distant, touch it or pass around it, and return to touch the hand of the next one in the line. Sometimes they carry a flag or stick which they pass to the next child, but oftentimes they merely touch hands. The race is won by the line whose last runner first gets home.

The Shuttle Relay. -- In the shuttle relay two or more groups of children are arranged at opposite ends of the running space. At the signal the child at the starting point of each line rushes across and touches the hand of the child of his own line at the opposite end, when this child in turn dashes back to touch the hand of the next child at the starting point, which continues until every child has run. The line whose last runner first gets home wins the race.

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